

1 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

2 U.S. SENATE

3 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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7 INTERVIEW OF: ANATOLI SAMOCHORNOV

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11 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

12 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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17 The interview in this matter was held at the

18 U.S. Capitol Building, [REDACTED], commencing at

19 12:29 p.m.

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1 APPEARANCES:  
2 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:  
3 Jason Foster, Chief Investigative Counsel,  
4 Chairman Grassley  
5 Patrick Davis, Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel,  
6 Chairman Grassley  
7 Samantha Brennan, Investigative Counsel,  
8 Chairman Grassley  
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10 Chairman Grassley  
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12 Senator Graham  
13 Brian Privor, Senior Counsel,  
14 Senator Feinstein  
15 Heather Sawyer, General Counsel,  
16 Senator Feinstein  
17 Molly M. Claflin, Counsel,  
18 Senator Feinstein  
19 Lara G. Quint, Chief Counsel,  
20 Senator Whitehouse  
21 Sarah Griswold, Counsel,  
22 Senator Feinstein  
23 Caitlin Meyer, Professional Staff Member,  
24 Senator Feinstein  
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1 APPEARANCES: (Cont'd.)

2 FOR THE WITNESS:

3 Larry H. Krantz, Esq., Krantz & Berman LLP

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## 1 I N D E X

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## 3 COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY: PAGE

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5 By Mr. Foster 15, 23, 38, 40, 48, 50

6 By Mr. Davis 20

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9 107, 109, 114

10 By Mr. Foster 89, 90, 95, 101, 102, 104, 110

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14 By Mr. Privor 65, 79, 86

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1                   P R O C E E D I N G S

2           MS. BRENNAN: Good morning. This is the  
3 transcribed interview of Anatoli Samochornov. On  
4 October 18, 2017, Chairman Grassley sent Mr.  
5 Samochornov a letter stating that the Judiciary  
6 Committee was seeking information related to a  
7 meeting held on June 9, 2016, at Trump Tower, as  
8 well as related matters. The letter requested an  
9 interview and certain categories of documents.

10           In response, Mr. Samochornov has through  
11 his counsel agreed to this voluntary interview.

12           On November 7, 2017, Mr. Samochornov's  
13 counsel sent the Chairman a letter stating that he  
14 would not be producing any documents, asserting  
15 that the responsive documents are privileged and  
16 that there were no responsive documents for  
17 several of the requested categories.

18           Would the witness please state your name  
19 for the record.

20           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: My full name is Anatoli  
21 Vitalievich Samochornov.

22           MS. BRENNAN: On behalf of the Chairman, I  
23 want to thank Mr. Samochornov for appearing here  
24 today. My name is Samantha Brennan, and I'm  
25 Investigative Counsel with the Committee's

1 majority staff.

2 I'll ask everyone else from the Committee  
3 who is here at the table to introduce themselves  
4 as well. We'll get to Mr. Samochornov's counsel  
5 in a few moments.

6 MR. DAVIS: I'm Patrick Davis, also with the  
7 majority staff.

8 MR. FOSTER: Jason Foster, majority staff.

9 MR. HOLMES: Lee Holmes, Lindsey Graham's  
10 office.

11 MS. SAWYER: Heather Sawyer. I'm with  
12 Senator Feinstein's Judiciary staff.

13 MR. KRANTZ: I apologize. I just couldn't  
14 hear it. I'm sorry. Heather Sawyer?

15 MS. SAWYER: Sawyer, yes.

16 MR. KRANTZ: Sawyer, S-A-W-Y-E-R?

17 MS. SAWYER: Yes.

18 MR. KRANTZ: Thank you.

19 MS. QUINT: Lara Quint, with Senator  
20 Whitehouse.

21 MS. CLAFLIN: Molly Claflin, with Senator  
22 Feinstein.

23 MR. PRIVOR: Brian Privor, with Senator  
24 Feinstein.

25 MR. KRANTZ: I apologize. I just can't

1 write as fast as you're going. What was your  
2 name? I'm sorry.

3 MS. CLAFLIN: Molly.

4 MR. KRANTZ: Molly?

5 MS. CLAFLIN: Claflin, C-L-A-F-L-I-N.

6 MR. KRANTZ: Thank you.

7 MR. PRIVOR: Brian Privor, with Senator  
8 Feinstein.

9 MS. GRISWOLD: Sarah Griswold, with Senator  
10 Feinstein's staff.

11 MS. MEYER: Caitlin Meyer, with Senator  
12 Feinstein.

13 MS. BRENNAN: The Federal Rules of Civil  
14 Procedure do not apply to any of the Committee's  
15 investigative activities, including transcribed  
16 interviews. There are some guidelines we follow,  
17 and I'll go over those now.

18 Our questioning will proceed in rounds.  
19 The majority staff will ask questions first for  
20 one hour. Then the minority staff will have the  
21 opportunity to ask questions for an equal amount  
22 of time. We will go back and forth until there  
23 are no more questions and the interview is over.

24 We typically take a short break at the  
25 end of each hour, but should you need to take a

1 break at any other time, please just let me know.

2 We have an official reporter taking down  
3 everything we say to make a written record, so we  
4 ask that you give verbal responses to all  
5 questions. Do you understand?

6 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yes, I do.

7 MS. BRENNAN: So that the court reporter can  
8 take down a clear record, we'll do our best to  
9 limit the number of people directing questions to  
10 you during any given hour to those whose turn it  
11 is. It's also important that we don't talk over  
12 one another or interrupt each other if we can help  
13 it. That goes for everybody present at today's  
14 interview.

15 While Senators on the Committee may  
16 observe, the Chairman and Ranking Member have  
17 agreed that only staff will ask questions.

18 We encourage witnesses who appear before  
19 the Committee to consult freely with counsel if  
20 they so choose. You are appearing here today with  
21 counsel. Counsel, please state your name for the  
22 record.

23 MR. KRANTZ: Larry Krantz, K-R-A-N-T-Z.

24 MS. BRENNAN: We want you to answer our  
25 questions in the most complete and truthful manner

1 possible, so we will take our time. If you have  
2 any questions or if you don't understand any of  
3 our questions, please let us know. If you  
4 honestly don't know the answer to a question or  
5 don't remember, it's best not to guess. Just give  
6 us your best recollection. It's okay to tell us  
7 if you learned information from someone else if  
8 you indicate how you came to know the information.  
9 If there are things that you don't know or can't  
10 remember, we ask that you inform us to the best of  
11 your knowledge who might be able to provide a more  
12 complete answer to the question.

13           It is this Committee's practice to honor  
14 valid common law privilege claims as an  
15 accommodation to a witness or party when those  
16 claims are made in good faith and accompanied by  
17 sufficient explanation so that the Committee can  
18 evaluate the claim. When deciding whether to  
19 honor a privilege, the Committee weighs its need  
20 for the information against any legitimate basis  
21 for withholding it. The Committee typically does  
22 not honor contractual confidentiality agreements.

23           You should understand that although the  
24 interview is not under oath, by law you are  
25 required to answer questions from Congress

1 truthfully. Do you understand that?

2 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I do.

3 MS. BRENNAN: Specifically, 18 U.S.C.

4 Section 1001 makes it a crime to make any

5 materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent

6 statement or representation in the course of a

7 congressional investigation. That statute applies

8 to your statements in this interview. Do you

9 understand that?

10 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I do.

11 MS. BRENNAN: Witnesses who knowingly

12 provide false statements could be subject to

13 criminal prosecution and imprisonment for up to

14 five years. Do you understand this?

15 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I do.

16 MS. BRENNAN: Is there any reason you're

17 unable to provide truthful answers to today's

18 questions?

19 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: No.

20 MS. BRENNAN: Finally, we ask that you do

21 not speak about what we discuss in this interview

22 with anyone else outside of who's in the room

23 today in order to preserve the integrity of our

24 investigation. We also ask that you do not remove

25 any exhibits or other Committee documents from the

1 interview.

2 Is there anything else that my colleagues  
3 from the minority want to add?

4 MS. SAWYER: No, thank you. We appreciate  
5 you being here today.

6 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Thank you.

7 MS. BRENNAN: Okay. The time is now 12:34,  
8 and we will get started with the first hour of  
9 questions.

10 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY

11 BY MS. BRENNAN:

12 Q. Please state your full name for the  
13 record.

14 A. My full name is Anatoli Vitalievich  
15 Samochornov.

16 Q. Where do you currently reside?

17 A. [REDACTED]  
18 New York [REDACTED].

19 Q. Where are you from originally?

20 A. I was born in what is now known as the  
21 Russian Federation.

22 Q. When did you move to the United States?

23 A. In 1991.

24 Q. When did you become an American citizen?

25 A. I do not remember the exact year, but



1 about 2002.

2 Q. Are you a dual citizen of the Russian  
3 Federation or any other country?

4 A. I do not want to correct the esteemed  
5 Committee, but legally dual citizenship is a  
6 dubious concept. I do have a second passport of  
7 the Russian Federation.

8 Q. What is your educational background?

9 A. I have a Master's in Linguistics and  
10 Interpreting and another Master's in Business  
11 Administration.

12 Q. What is your professional background?

13 A. Can you specify what you would like to  
14 know?

15 Q. Different companies you've worked for,  
16 what your title has been, your responsibilities.

17 A. I started my career working for an oil  
18 services company, Universal Ogden Services. Then  
19 I moved on and worked on Wall Street for Bear  
20 Stearns in private client services. After that, I  
21 have been an interpreter, professional interpreter  
22 in my own practice. On top of that, I have been  
23 doing project management for a subcontractor of  
24 the U.S. Department of State.

25 Q. Can you give us the names of those

1 companies?

2 A. My first company was called Universal  
3 Ogden.

4 Q. The interpreter service and the last one  
5 that you mentioned?

6 A. I did not have a company. Until  
7 recently, I had a company established in  
8 partnership with my three colleagues. That was  
9 called Interpreter Boutique. But for the  
10 interpreting practices and for interpreting work,  
11 I acted as a sole practitioner. Now I have an  
12 LLC, again, for my interpreting business.

13 Q. What is your relationship with the  
14 Meridian International Center?

15 A. I was for many years a contractor for the  
16 Meridian International.

17 Q. Your LinkedIn page states that you have  
18 been a "interpreter at high-level UN and private  
19 sector meetings for the Secretary of State and  
20 other VIPs." For which Secretary of State did you  
21 serve as an interpreter?

22 A. I have served as an interpreter for  
23 Secretary Clinton on one occasion. I was invited  
24 by the Italian mission to serve at a dinner for  
25 foreign ministers on the -- within the G-20

1 meeting at the UN. I have two or three times  
2 interpreted for Secretary Kerry when he had  
3 meetings with his counterpart, Mr. Lavrov, and the  
4 group rounds about Syria. I have also interpreted  
5 Mr. Obama's summits at the United Nations, and I  
6 believe Vice President Joe Biden also spoke there.

7 Q. Does that cover all of the VIPs who you  
8 described in that job description, or are there  
9 others?

10 A. I've been interpreting for 20 years.  
11 We're going to be here for a long time. I've  
12 interpreted for many CEOs of U.S. companies,  
13 nonprofit world people. I interpreted for Nobel  
14 Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich last year. So  
15 quite a few people.

16 Q. Have you ever held a security clearance?

17 A. I have what is known as a public trust  
18 clearance, but I never had anything beyond that.

19 Q. And you presently have that public trust  
20 clearance?

21 A. As far as I'm aware, yes.

22 BY MR. FOSTER:

23 Q. Can you explain to us what that means?

24 A. Well, my understanding is that is basic  
25 background check, that I'm not into drugs, I am

1 who I say I am, that I pay taxes on time, and  
2 basically I do not lie or misrepresent myself, and  
3 I am a person who could be trusted with the  
4 assignments that I'm given.

5 BY MS. BRENNAN:

6 Q. And can you explain your role at the  
7 Interpreter Boutique?

8 A. We founded a company with two partners to  
9 try to drum up more work for ourselves.

10 Q. Have you ever worked for the Russian  
11 Government?

12 A No.

13 Q. Have you ever worked for any government  
14 other than the United States Government?

15 A. No. I have provided interpretation for  
16 Kazakh Government, but typically the way it is  
17 handled is by an interpreting agency. So the  
18 interpreting agency would ask me to interpret, and  
19 I did interpret for President Nazarbayev, I think  
20 once for his daughter, and last year -- or was it  
21 this year? -- for the Prime Minister of  
22 Kazakhstan. But there is an interpreting agency  
23 that contacts me for this work, so I never  
24 directly contracted with any foreign government.

25 Q. When did you first have communications

1 with Natalia Veselnitskaya?

2 A. I met her in the fall of 2015.

3 Q. And how did you first connect with her?

4 Did you initiate the contacts? Did she, or a

5 third party?

6 A. It was another party. It was a colleague

7 interpreter -- his name is [REDACTED] -

8 - who called me and asked me if I would be

9 available to do some substitute work for him for

10 the depositions, and he gave me the dates, and I

11 agreed to it.

12 Q. So he had been doing interpreter --

13 A. I believe so. I'm not 100 percent sure.

14 I think he was an interpreter in part of the

15 Prevezon case, but then for some reason he wasn't

16 able to continue, and he asked me to -- whether I

17 would be able to step in.

18 Q. To the best of your knowledge, is Ms.

19 Veselnitskaya an attorney for the Russian

20 Government?

21 A. You have to define the question. What do

22 you mean by that? What is an attorney for the

23 Russian Government?

24 MR. KRANTZ: Does she represent -- are you

25 asking does she represent --

1           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: No. To the best of my  
2 knowledge, no. I'm aware that Ms. Veselnitskaya  
3 started her career many years ago -- she told me  
4 that herself -- as a prosecutor in the Moscow  
5 regional prosecutor's office. But I have never  
6 been made aware or known anything that would  
7 indicate that she's presently employed in any  
8 capacity by the Russian Government.

9 BY MS. BRENNAN:

10           Q. Other than being a prosecutor, do you  
11 know if she ever has represented the Russian  
12 Government?

13           A. No.

14           Q. When you first interacted with Ms.  
15 Veselnitskaya, what did you understand her  
16 business to be?

17           A. I understand that she was there  
18 representing her client, Mr. Katsyv, Mr. Denis  
19 Katsyv, who I also met at that time. And there  
20 were three witnesses in a civil case that they  
21 were preparing for the deposition. So my  
22 understanding was that she was the representative  
23 of the Prevezon group of companies.

24           Q. Did you have a contract with her  
25 personally?

1           A. No. I had a contract with  
2 BakerHostetler, the law firm that represented her  
3 at the time.

4           Q. Has Ms. Veselnitskaya ever paid you for  
5 your services?

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. Can you explain that?

8           A. Prevezon litigation proved out to be a  
9 complex one, and the case was stayed and their  
10 counsel disqualified. And when she came, I  
11 believe at the end of 2016, to engage a second  
12 counsel, before we could resume the arrangement of  
13 me being paid by a legal firm, she paid for my  
14 services for the invoice once in, I believe it  
15 was, January 2017.

16          Q. Were you ever paid by Prevezon or its  
17 affiliated companies?

18          A. No. I was paid -- my services,  
19 interpreting services that I provided to Ms.  
20 Veselnitskaya, were paid through BakerHostetler.  
21 There was one payment that I described that she  
22 made. And the rest of it happened through the  
23 foundation and also through Quinn Emanuel.

24          Q. So you said your contract was with  
25 BakerHostetler, but --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is your relationship, if any, with  
3 Prevezon Holdings?

4 A. I have no relationship with Prevezon  
5 Holdings.

6 Q. Were you ever paid for interpreter  
7 services by the Human Rights Accountability Global  
8 Initiative?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What is your relationship with the Human  
11 Rights Global Accountability Initiative?

12 A. They took me on retainer, and this lasted  
13 approximately about 4 or 5 months. And I was  
14 offered this position and this opportunity as both  
15 an interpreter and potentially somebody who would  
16 manage their cultural exchange.

17 Q. What were the dates of that engagement?

18 A. Approximately from March 2016 until  
19 August 2016. But, really, the active phase of  
20 their work commenced from mid-April to mid-June  
21 2016.

22 Q. What were your responsibilities for that  
23 engagement?

24 A. I was interpreting an awful lot of  
25 telephone calls, letters, contracts, communiques.



1 I accompanied Ms. Veselnitskaya to Brussels and  
2 to London.

3 Q. Were you ever --

4 BY MR. DAVIS:

5 Q. Sorry. You mentioned that you were  
6 considered for managing their cultural exchange.  
7 What does that entail?

8 A. In the beginning it was described to me  
9 that this was going to be foundation that wanted  
10 to restart adoptions, and they wanted to do some  
11 sort of a cultural component, which really wasn't  
12 defined or described. It was a very brief affair.  
13 But they wanted to do something for the children  
14 that are already adopted here and bring some  
15 Russian artists here and bring some American  
16 artists to Russia. That was the idea that was  
17 proposed to me.

18 BY MS. BRENNAN:

19 Q. Did you ever do any of that?

20 A No.

21 Q. Were you ever paid for interpreter  
22 services by Berryle Trading, Incorporated?

23 A No.

24 Q. Do you have any relationship with Berryle  
25 Trading, Incorporated?

1           A. That's the first time I hear the name of  
2 this entity.

3           Q. Were you ever paid for interpreter  
4 services by Denis Katsyv?

5           A. No.

6           Q. Pyotr Katsyv?

7           A. No.

8           Q. Were you ever paid for interpreter  
9 services by Aras Agalarov?

10          A. No.

11          Q. Have you ever received payments from  
12 Fusion GPS?

13          A. No.

14          Q. What interactions have you had with  
15 Fusion GPS?

16          A. I remember three or four meetings with  
17 Mr. Glenn Simpson, which started approximately in  
18 the fall of 2015. My understanding was that he  
19 did research work for Prevezon. I do not remember  
20 exactly whether he was always accompanied by his  
21 associate, but there was a certain person, and I  
22 only remember her as Taylor. She is a young  
23 woman. And the last time I saw Mr. Simpson was in  
24 mid-June of 2016. So all in all, I have  
25 interpreted maybe about three or four meetings

1 with Glenn Simpson and Fusion GPS.

2 MR. KRANTZ: And just to be clear, to the  
3 extent that those meetings were attorney-client  
4 privileged meetings, I just want to caution you to  
5 not reveal the substance of the communications.

6 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yeah. Those meetings, all  
7 of my interactions of Fusion GPS that I ever had  
8 were all on the matter of *U.S. v. Prevezon*.

9 BY MS. BRENNAN:

10 Q. So we'll talk about the June 9, 2016,  
11 meeting in a bit, but can you give the dates of  
12 all of the other meetings, or approximations?

13 MR. KRANTZ: You mean the meetings with Mr.  
14 Simpson?

15 MS. BRENNAN: Correct.

16 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I will try to do my best  
17 remembering, but I might not be exact. I met him  
18 -- so I met Ms. Veselnitskaya and her team in  
19 October 2015. There was a series of depositions  
20 that took several days, and then they had a series  
21 of consultations with their lawyers. So I must  
22 have met Mr. Simpson for the first time sometime  
23 after October 20, 2015.

24 The last meeting that I recall with him  
25 was in mid-June. I would say it was either June

1 12th or 13th. If you need me to explain how I

2 remember, we can go into further details.

3 BY MR. FOSTER:

4 Q. Please go ahead.

5 A. That June, HRAGIF wanted to screen a

6 movie made by Mr. Nekrasov, and I was not able to

7 be present at that screening. The reason I

8 remember that, I had a prior commitment to work

9 for Random House and PEN America to interpret for

10 Ms. Alexievich who came to introduce her book at

11 the New York Public Library. So I believe Ms.

12 Veselnitskaya came on the 7th or 8th of June. I

13 accompanied her to Washington, but I had to come

14 back on Sunday of that week to be here for Monday

15 and Tuesday. So I was out of Washington on those

16 2 days, and then I came back.

17 There was a dinner that BakerHostetler

18 organized for Ms. Veselnitskaya, and Mr. Glenn

19 Simpson was present there, and I believe that was

20 the last time that I saw him. So it must have

21 been either Saturday or Sunday of that week.

22 Q. So can you walk us through each of the

23 meetings that you recall having with Mr. Simpson

24 and tell us who was present at each of those

25 meetings?

1           A. That would require simony. I don't  
2 remember. Mostly what I recall of the meetings,  
3 they did research for --

4           MR. KRANTZ: Again, to the extent that this  
5 is attorney-client privileged and you're acting as  
6 an interpreter, you really can't reveal the  
7 substance of what transpired.

8           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Okay.

9           MR. FOSTER: Well, my question wasn't about  
10 the substance but about who was present. I'm  
11 trying to ascertain --

12          MR. KRANTZ: I hear the question was that,  
13 but I want to caution the witness not to go  
14 somewhere else.

15          MR. SAMOCHORNOV: So at the first meeting --  
16 and, again, I might not be exact, but the people I  
17 remember present were Mr. Mark Simpson, Mr. John  
18 Moscow of BakerHostetler, probably some other  
19 BakerHostetler people who worked on the case, Mr.  
20 Akhmetshin, Mr. Glenn Simpson. And I'm blanking  
21 out on the name of Mr. Akhmetshin's partner. It  
22 starts with L.

23          MR. DAVIS: Was it Ed Lieberman?

24          MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yes. Thank you. So Mr.  
25 Ed Lieberman was there, and they came to talk to

1 both Ms. Veselnitskaya and Mr. Katsyv. So that  
2 was that group, approximately, myself included.  
3 That was the first two meetings.

4           Then Mr. Simpson -- and here my  
5 recollection is vague. He might have come at some  
6 other time from Washington to see Ms.  
7 Veselnitskaya, again in the conjunction of the  
8 case. And it usually was with one of her lawyers  
9 from BakerHostetler.

10           At dinner there was Mr. Cymrot. I might  
11 have said "Simpson" before. It was Mr. Cymrot,  
12 Mark Cymrot. A few people from BakerHostetler  
13 here in Washington. I also believe Mr. Lieberman  
14 -- I'm not sure if Mr. Akhmetshin was at that  
15 meeting or not. But it was a large group of  
16 people, maybe 20 people.

17 BY MR. FOSTER:

18           Q. And just so the record's clear, that's at  
19 dinner on what date?

20           A. Either 12th or the 13th. On that weekend  
21 before I left for New York.

22           Q. 12th or 13th of?

23           A. June 2016.

24 BY MS. BRENNAN:

25           Q. Okay. We'll talk some more about the

1 June events later on. Have you ever worked with  
2 Ms. Veselnitskaya abroad?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What was the context?

5 A. I was asked to accompany her to Brussels  
6 where Mr. Nekrasov attempted to premier his movie,  
7 and once I accompanied her to London where she  
8 conferred with her lawyers there. And I also went  
9 to London this spring to interpret the deposition  
10 of a witness in the case. On those three -- oh,  
11 wait a minute. Sorry. Fourth occasion was a trip  
12 to Moscow with the Quinn Emanuel team where they  
13 interviewed potential witnesses.

14 Q. What is the nature of your relationship  
15 with Mr. Akhmetshin?

16 A. Professional.

17 Q. When did you first meet Mr. Akhmetshin?

18 A. Approximately at the same time as Mr.  
19 Simpson. I think it must have been that same  
20 meeting, so sometimes end of October 2016.

21 MR. DAVIS: Sorry. Was that 2016 or 2015?

22 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: '15. Thank you for  
23 correcting me. '15.

24 BY MS. BRENNAN:

25 Q. As far as you know, what is Mr.

1 Akhmetshin's business?

2 A. I understand that he is some sort of a  
3 consultant and lobbyist and works with Russian  
4 companies here in D.C.

5 Q. Have you worked with Mr. Akhmetshin in  
6 his lobbying efforts related to the Magnitsky Act  
7 and adoption policies?

8 A. No. There was one exception. I helped  
9 facilitate a meeting between Mr. Akhmetshin and  
10 Mr. Lieberman and the Satmar community when they  
11 came to New York. I accompanied them to that  
12 meeting. But other than that, no.

13 MR. KRANTZ: What was the community you just  
14 said?

15 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Satmar.

16 BY MS. BRENNAN:

17 Q. What was the date of that meeting?

18 A. July 2016.

19 Q. Can you describe the nature of that  
20 meeting?

21 A. Mr. Lieberman and Mr. Akhmetshin came to  
22 see Rabbi Jacob Teitelbaum, and Rabbi Teitelbaum  
23 and there was also Rabbi Moshe Landau, they are  
24 friends of Mr. Katsyv from his charity work in  
25 Jewish charities in Ukraine. And when Mr. Katsyv



1 had this case, he sought both their spiritual and  
2 legal guidance. And there was a meeting set up, I  
3 do not know who by, but I was asked, since I  
4 interpreted for Ms. Veselnitskaya and Mr. Katsyv  
5 when they met the rabbis before, to accompany Mr.  
6 Lieberman and Mr. Akhmetshin and introduce them to  
7 the rabbis.

8 Q. What was your role in that meeting?

9 A. I said, "Hello. This is Mr. Akhmetshin,  
10 this is Lieberman. They're working at the  
11 foundation, and they're going to talk to you about  
12 what they're trying to accomplish."

13 Q. Has Mr. Akhmetshin ever said anything to  
14 you indicating or implying that he worked with the  
15 Russian Government?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Has he ever said anything to you  
18 indicating or implying that he had worked for  
19 Russian intelligence?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Has he ever said anything to you  
22 indicating or implying that he has contacts or  
23 connections with Russian Government officials?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you have reason to believe that Mr.

1 Akhmetshin has ties to the Russian Government?

2 A. No.

3 Q. When did you first meet Ed Lieberman?

4 A. As I have stated previously, there was  
5 this visit, this meeting in October of 2015.  
6 That's when I first met him.

7 Q. And as far as you know, what is Mr.  
8 Lieberman's business?

9 A. I do not know specifics. I believe he  
10 was a corporate lawyer involved in some business  
11 in Russia, but I think he has retired since then.  
12 But I am not intimately familiar with the nature  
13 of his business activities.

14 Q. What did you understand Mr. Lieberman's  
15 role to be in the Prevezon-Magnitsky work?

16 A. I don't know if it's privileged or not.

17 MR. KRANTZ: If your knowledge is based on  
18 privileged conversations, then you can't respond.

19 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: He did some work for the  
20 Prevezon case.

21 BY MS. BRENNAN:

22 Q. What about Magnitsky work?

23 A. I do not know specifically what Mr.  
24 Lieberman did for Magnitsky work.

25 Q. What was your involvement with Mr.

1 Lieberman in that work as far as you can tell us?

2 MR. KRANTZ: Other than being an  
3 interpreter?

4 MS. BRENNAN: Correct.

5 BY MS. BRENNAN:

6 Q. So if it's limited to interpreting or  
7 anything beyond that, please explain.

8 A. No. Other than the meeting that I  
9 described, everything else was basically  
10 interpreting and communications type of work.

11 Q. Okay. In your interactions with Ms.  
12 Veselnitskaya, did she claim to be acting as an  
13 attorney for Mr. Katsyv, Prevezon Holdings, both,  
14 or other entities?

15 A. I do not know how -- I do not know the  
16 precise answer to this question. My belief was  
17 that she acted as an attorney for Mr. Katsyv and  
18 that she represented other interests of the Katsyv  
19 family. I do not know whether she was formally an  
20 attorney for Prevezon. I can't tell you that.

21 Q. Are you familiar with the film titled  
22 "The Magnitsky Act," purportedly by Andrei  
23 Nekrasov?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you know Mr. Nekrasov?

1           A. I've met him.

2           Q. When did you meet him?

3           MR. KRANTZ: What was the name of the film?

4           MS. BRENNAN: "The Magnitsky Act."

5           MR. KRANTZ: Thank you.

6           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I believe I met him at the  
7 end of 2015, in December, when he came to New York  
8 and brought the film with him.

9 BY MS. BRENNAN:

10          Q. Did you have any involvement in the  
11 events related to screening the film?

12          A. No.

13          Q. Do you know Ike Kaveladze?

14          A. Yes. Yes, I know him.

15          Q. How do you know him?

16          A. I met whom I later understood to be Ike  
17 Kaveladze on June 9th, and then I met him a couple  
18 of other times.

19          Q. Can you describe those meetings?

20          A. June 9th, Mr. Ike Kaveladze joined Ms.  
21 Veselnitskaya, Mr. Akhmetshin, and myself for  
22 lunch and accompanied us to the meeting with  
23 Donald Trump, Jr., at the Trump Tower. The other  
24 times, I think that also could be privileged  
25 because it concerned legal consultations that they

1 had on another matter, not on Prevezon matter, but  
2 it was with the lawyers. So I presume that it  
3 falls under privilege. But there were two  
4 additional meetings. I think the last one was in  
5 January 2017.

6 Q. Without getting into the substance of  
7 those meetings, can you tell us who else attended  
8 the meetings?

9 A. It was the attorney who, I saw on  
10 television, now represents Mr. Kaveladze.

11 MR. KRANTZ: If you don't remember his name,  
12 you don't remember his name.

13 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I don't remember his name,  
14 but I saw him on television, and I recognized him.  
15 That's the attorney that we saw two or three  
16 times.

17 MR. FOSTER: And without getting into the  
18 substance of what the meetings were about, can you  
19 just tell us what is the other matter?

20 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: It was still work around  
21 the Magnitsky issue.

22 MR. FOSTER: Okay.

23 BY MS. BRENNAN:

24 Q. To the best of your knowledge, has Mr.  
25 Kaveladze had any role in the Prevezon case or

1 Magnitsky work?

2 A. Not that I can think of. No, he didn't.

3 Q. So your meeting with him and his attorney  
4 was not related to Magnitsky work?

5 A. Oh, the meeting was more of an  
6 introduction, but I don't think he personally  
7 himself did any work. As far -- again, as far as  
8 I know, Mr. Kaveladze, as you're aware, speaks  
9 perfect Russian, so my services were not needed,  
10 and I wasn't present for all the interactions  
11 between Ms. Veselnitskaya and Mr. Kaveladze.

12 Q. Do you have reason to believe Mr.  
13 Kaveladze has ties to the Russian Government?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know Rob Goldstone?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Have you ever met Rob Goldstone?

18 A. I met an individual whom I later  
19 understood to be Rob Goldstone from press reports  
20 on June 9, 2016.

21 Q. Do you have any understanding of his  
22 work?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you have any understanding of whether  
25 he has ties to the Russian Government?

1           A. No.

2           Q. Do you have an understanding of Glenn  
3 Simpson's role in the Prevezon case?

4           A. Not a precise one, but some  
5 understanding, yes.

6           MR. KRANTZ: Again, to the extent that  
7 that's based on privileged conversations --

8           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: It is.

9           MR. KRANTZ: -- it shouldn't be disclosed.

10          MR. SAMOCHORNOV: It is based on something  
11 that I interpreted between Ms. Veselnitskaya and  
12 Mr. Simpson and her attorneys.

13 BY MS. BRENNAN:

14          Q. Do you have an understanding of his role  
15 in the HRAGI lobbying?

16          A. I'm not aware that he had a role in the  
17 HRAGIF lobbying.

18          Q. Do you know Ed Baumgartner?

19          A. Yes.

20          Q. How do you know him?

21          A. He also met -- I'm not exactly 100  
22 percent sure whether it was the same meeting that  
23 I described that happened in late October 2015.  
24 But sometime around that time, he also came in  
25 there, and he also did some work for the Prevezon

1 case. But I'm not sure what was the precise  
2 relationship between him and Mr. Simpson and how  
3 it all fit together. I don't know.

4 Q. Okay. So you're not sure whether he was  
5 working with Mister -- through Mr. Simpson with  
6 Prevezon or directly for Prevezon?

7 A. Correct. I do not know that.

8 Q. Do you have any understanding of his role  
9 in the HRAGI lobbying?

10 A. I'm not aware that he had a role in  
11 HRAGIF lobbying.

12 Q. Okay. So we'll switch and talk about the  
13 June 9th meeting now. Who first contacted you  
14 about a meeting between Ms. Veselnitskaya and  
15 Donald Trump, Jr.?

16 A. There was no such contact. I can explain  
17 perhaps the nature of my work with Ms.  
18 Veselnitskaya. So she had frequent visits to the  
19 United States, and I would be contacted by her  
20 attorneys or herself directly, and she would ask  
21 me whether you would be available on such-and-such  
22 dates.

23 In June I was on retainer, so I made  
24 myself available for that time, and she told me  
25 that she was coming. And she told me to come and



1 meet her at a certain time at her hotel. But the  
2 only thing I knew about June 9th is that there  
3 would be an appellate -- a hearing at the  
4 appellate court.

5 Q. Okay. So on June -- did you see Ms.  
6 Veselnitskaya on June 8th?

7 A. I do not remember. She must have come on  
8 the 7th or the 8th, but I do not have a diary, I  
9 don't have records. Most likely, yes.

10 Q. Did you attend a dinner with her on June  
11 8th?

12 A. I don't remember, but could be, yes.

13 Q. Can you walk through the itinerary that  
14 you had with her on June 9th? When did you meet  
15 her in the morning?

16 A. I do not remember the precise time. It  
17 must have been sometime in the morning. But I  
18 remember that we took a car downtown to the  
19 courthouse, and in the car she received a call  
20 from Mr. Akhmetshin. And she asked me to type a  
21 message asking to add him to the roster of people  
22 attending the meeting. And that, to the best of  
23 my recollection, is when I learned that Ms.  
24 Veselnitskaya had a meeting with Mr. Donald Trump,  
25 Jr. It must have been before 10 o'clock, and I

1 don't have a precise recollection. I'm basing it  
2 on the usual time the court starts. So I must  
3 have met her at 9 o'clock, and we were in a car  
4 between 9:00 and 9:45.

5           After the appellate court hearing, there  
6 was a conversation on the steps with her lawyers,  
7 and then again something happened that I  
8 completely forgot, but I was later going through  
9 my tax receipts, and I found a pass from  
10 BakerHostetler dated June 6 -- June 9, 2016,  
11 marked 1:27 p.m. So there must have been a  
12 meeting at BakerHostetler which I completely do  
13 not remember.

14           After that, there was a -- we went to  
15 luncheon at the restaurant not far from the Trump  
16 Tower.

17           Q. You helped Ms. Veselnitskaya type a  
18 message before the court hearing?

19           A. I did not have the exact time. I thought  
20 it was either/or -- either going there or going  
21 back there. I remember visually that we were in  
22 the car on FDR. But now it emerged that it was  
23 9:24, so it kind of fits into the timeline. I  
24 initially did not remember the precise time,  
25 whether it was before the court hearing or after

1 the court hearing, but sometime in the morning.

2 Q. Do you recall who from the Prevezon team  
3 was at the hearing?

4 A. Not exactly. I think there were a lot of  
5 BakerHostetler people. I think Mark Cymrot was  
6 there; Mr. Mukasey, who argued for BakerHostetler.  
7 Gosh. And there must have been a team of five or  
8 six people, but I don't remember exactly.

9 Q. Do you remember if Glenn Simpson was  
10 there?

11 A. No, I do not remember him at that  
12 hearing. He sometimes -- I don't remember him  
13 attending hearings. Just not something I  
14 remember.

15 Q. At the hearing were you providing  
16 interpreter services for Ms. Veselnitskaya?

17 A. At that point, in the appellate court you  
18 can't provide interpreting because it's very  
19 strict and very formal, so I was taking notes and  
20 later explained to her what happened.

21 Q. And did you at any point during the  
22 hearing -- or did you discuss the meeting with  
23 Donald Trump, Jr., or with anyone else on the  
24 Prevezon team?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Do you know if Ms. Veselnitskaya did?

2 A. Not through me.

3 BY MR. FOSTER:

4 Q. Who was the message sent to you that you  
5 typed for Ms. Veselnitskaya?

6 A. I do not know that. I was given a phone,  
7 and actually now, from press reports, that I  
8 realize that it was an email, but I remembered it  
9 as a text. I remember typing it, and when I saw  
10 it in the press, this is definitely my wording.

11 This is definitely my work. I definitely  
12 translated it. But my recollection is for some  
13 reason it was a text message. But I remember --

14 Q. So you typed it.

15 A. I remember typing it on her phone. She  
16 gave me a phone and dictated me what to type. But  
17 who she sent it to precisely, I do not know and  
18 did not know at that time either.

19 BY MS. BRENNAN:

20 Q. At what point did she ask you to attend  
21 the meeting with her?

22 A. She didn't specifically ask me. It was  
23 assumed that I would be providing services that  
24 day for as long as she needed me.

25 Q. So when you went to lunch, I'm sorry if

1 this is repetitive, but who was present at lunch?

2 A. Initially, it was myself and Ms.

3 Veselnitskaya. I believe then Mr. Akhmetshin

4 joined us, and the last to arrive was Mr.

5 Kaveladze.

6 Q. And then can you describe going from

7 lunch to the meeting?

8 MR. FOSTER: Before you do that, can you

9 just tell us everything you remember about what

10 the conversation was at lunch?

11 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Well, here I would ask you

12 to appreciate my role. I'm an interpreter, so if

13 I'm not needed, I'm not exactly paying a lot of

14 attention. So I spent a lot of the lunch on my

15 phone. But the discussion was mostly about the

16 Magnitsky -- the circumstances around the

17 Magnitsky Act, as far as -- to the best of my

18 recollection.

19 I also remember that at the luncheon

20 table, there was a white plastic folder, but I do

21 not remember what happened to it. I do not

22 remember it at the meeting. I do not remember it

23 passed on. But I remember that at the restaurant

24 there was a folder that she intended to take to

25 the meeting with her. And after lunch, which was

1 about maybe an hour and a half, maybe slightly  
2 longer, we just got up and walked over to Trump  
3 Tower?

4 MR. DAVIS: Did you have any understanding  
5 of what was in the folder?

6 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: No. It wasn't open, and  
7 it wasn't specifically talked about.

8 BY MS. BRENNAN:

9 Q. It wasn't opened during lunch?

10 A. No. Not that I recall.

11 Q. Were there any documents passed around at  
12 lunch?

13 A No. It's just that -- then, again, you  
14 asked me to give you something that I learned from  
15 others. I did not have a recollection personally  
16 about any folder. But when I read Mr.  
17 Akhmetshin's account, I -- it's very funny. I'm  
18 an interpreter, and I thought I would remember  
19 more words. But I remember the images. I just  
20 remember the image of a white plastic folder on  
21 the table. But I do not remember what happened  
22 with it afterwards. So there was a folder.

23 BY MR. FOSTER:

24 Q. Was there discussion of the upcoming  
25 meeting during lunch, the meeting that was to

1 occur with Mr. Trump, Jr.?

2 A. Not specifically about the agenda. It  
3 was -- again, to the best of my recollection, it  
4 was about the work that Ms. Veselnitskaya was  
5 doing in regards to the Magnitsky Act and her case  
6 and her travails related to those issues.

7 Q. So you don't recall any specific  
8 reference to Trump, Jr. at that lunch?

9 A. No. It was known that we're going to  
10 meet Trump, Jr. That was announced, and it was  
11 known to me since I typed that message, and that's  
12 when, as I recall, she told me that. But I don't  
13 remember any special instructions or preparations  
14 that were passed on at the meetings. At least  
15 they were not given to me.

16 BY MS. BRENNAN:

17 Q. Turning now to the meeting itself on June  
18 9, 2016, did anyone state that the Russian  
19 Government supported Donald Trump's Presidential  
20 campaign?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did anyone state that the Russian  
23 Government opposed Hillary Clinton's campaign?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did anyone at the meeting offer to

1 release hacked emails to aid the Trump campaign?

2 A No.

3 Q. Did anyone offer to manufacture or  
4 distribute fake news to aid the Trump campaign?

5 A No.

6 Q. Did anyone offer to hack State voter  
7 registration systems to obtain voter data to aid  
8 the Trump campaign?

9 A No.

10 Q. Was there any discussion of anything that  
11 might reasonably be considered collusion between  
12 the Trump campaign and the Russian Government?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Please list everyone who was present for  
15 any portion of the June 9th meeting, even if they  
16 did not attend the entire meeting.

17 A. Very well. It would be easier for me,  
18 if you do not mind, to describe what I remember  
19 chronologically.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. So we arrived to Trump Tower and went  
22 through the main entrance on Fifth Avenue, and on  
23 the left there was an elevator door. And my  
24 recollection is that's where we were met by Mister  
25 -- whom I later understood to be Mr. Goldstone



1 from the publicity photographs. My impression of  
2 him, that he was some sort of a security agent or  
3 driver or some sort of retainer, and he took us  
4 upstairs. I again -- I do not remember which  
5 floor it was, but it was in the middle of the  
6 building because we were above the treetops but  
7 not above the top of the neighboring building, so  
8 it must be 20, 30th floor. I do not know which  
9 floor it was. But it was an office, and we waited  
10 in the lobby. It has a glass wall separating the  
11 lobby from the conference room, and the conference  
12 room --

13 MR. FOSTER: I think the question is: Who  
14 was there?

15 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Oh, yeah, but we went into  
16 the conference room. It was a rather large  
17 conference room, and we were almost immediately  
18 met with Mr. Donald Trump, Jr., and Mr. Manafort.  
19 And what I remember meeting and what is my exact  
20 recollection is that on this side of the table,  
21 like I sit here today, it was me, Ms.  
22 Veselnitskaya, and Mr. Akhmetshin. At the head of  
23 the table over there was Mr. Donald Trump, Jr.,  
24 and Mr. Trump. I remember that there were people  
25 across the room --

1 BY MS. BRENNAN:

2 Q. Sorry. You said Donald Trump, Jr., and  
3 who?

4 A. And Mr. Manafort. So the table went  
5 along the perimeter of the room, and on the other  
6 side of the table there was Mr. Kushner, who came  
7 later. I don't think he was part of the initial  
8 meet-and-greet.

9 There were some other people also with  
10 him. Who they are I just do not remember exactly.  
11 And Mr. Kushner did get up and leave at about 5  
12 or 6 minutes after the beginning of the meeting.  
13 I don't remember anybody else coming or going  
14 other than him.

15 A. Were all of the attendees introduced?

16 A. I don't recall.

17 Q. Do you remember how Ms. Veselnitskaya was  
18 introduced?

19 A. No, I do not.

20 Q. Not whether she introduced herself or if  
21 someone else introduced her?

22 A. I remember there was a meet-and-greet and  
23 exchange of business cards. But the precise  
24 wording, I unfortunately do not remember.

25 Q. Do you remember if she said what type of

1 business she was in or for whom she worked?

2 A. I don't remember her saying anything like  
3 that.

4 Q. Did she or anyone else claim that she was  
5 working for the Russian Government?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did it appear that anyone else in the  
8 meeting from the Trump campaign had previously  
9 interacted with Ms. Veselnitskaya?

10 A. To the best that I can ascertain, no.

11 Q. Did Ms. Veselnitskaya speak exclusively  
12 through you as her interpreter?

13 A. Yes. To the extent that she spoke at  
14 all.

15 Q. How was Rinat Akhmetshin introduced?

16 A. I don't remember.

17 Q. Do you remember whether he said what type  
18 of business he was in or for whom he worked?

19 A. I don't remember that.

20 Q. Do you remember if he or anyone else  
21 claimed that he was working for the Russian  
22 Government?

23 A. I can definitively say that nobody at the  
24 meeting said that they worked for the Russian  
25 Government.

1           Q. Did it appear that anyone else in the  
2 meeting from the Trump campaign had ever  
3 previously interacted with Mr. Akhmetshin?

4           A. Not to me, but I can't be sure. I don't  
5 know.

6           Q. Do you have any reason to believe that he  
7 and Mr. Manafort knew each other?

8           A. No.

9           Q. Do you recall what Mr. Akhmetshin wore to  
10 the meeting?

11          A. No.

12          Q. Do you recall how Ike Kaveladze was  
13 introduced?

14          A. No.

15          Q. Whether he said what type of business he  
16 was in or who he worked for?

17          A. No, I don't remember.

18          Q. Or whether he had ever interacted with  
19 anyone from the Trump campaign?

20          A. I do not remember the precise wordage of  
21 the introductions. I just can't sit here and  
22 invent things. But I had an impression that Mr.  
23 Kaveladze had some earlier interactions with at  
24 least Mr. Goldstone because in my, again,  
25 understanding, it was he who made the connection.

1 That's how I understood the proceedings. But I  
2 do not -- I cannot tell you exactly and precisely  
3 what was said at that time.

4 MR. FOSTER: Sorry. Who is the "he" in that  
5 sentence?

6 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Mr. Kaveladze.

7 MR. FOSTER: Mr. Kaveladze made the  
8 connection between who and --

9 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: My impression -- and,  
10 again, this is somebody who is not told everything  
11 exactly. My impression that it was Mr. Kaveladze  
12 who helped arrange the meeting and, when he  
13 appeared at lunch, helped to take us there. But I  
14 have no specific wordage or proof to offer you.  
15 It was just how I interpreted the situation.

16 MR. KRANTZ: Just your impression.

17 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: It's my impression, yes.  
18 When I first read this account, I was very  
19 surprised of Mr. Goldstone, and it didn't even  
20 occur to me that he's British. I thought he was,  
21 like, you know, he acted more like somebody from  
22 Queens.

23 BY MS. BRENNAN:

24 Q. Can you -- you said --

25 MR. KRANTZ: I'm from Queens. I take great

1 offense.

2 [Laughter.]

3 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: But my point is that I  
4 thought that it was somebody who is a personal  
5 helper or driver or an assistant. To me -- and,  
6 again, everybody has limits in their judgment of  
7 character, but it did not occur to me that he was  
8 the publicist for a pop star. It was not the  
9 impression that I got.

10 BY MS. BRENNAN:

11 Q. Can you explain -- and you said that part  
12 of the reason you thought Mr. Kaveladze had  
13 organized the meeting is because he brought you to  
14 meet Mr. Goldstone. But can you explain why you  
15 thought that a little bit more?

16 A. First of all, he appeared at luncheon,  
17 and he was the person who kind of ushered us and  
18 organized us and said, "Let's go. We should not  
19 be late." So I assumed that he had some sort of  
20 connection to the arrangement.

21 Q. At the lunch did he seem to know about  
22 the Magnitsky Act or the Prevezon work?

23 A. No, not much. I think he heard something  
24 about it before, but he was not familiar about the  
25 details, and that, as I recall, was the

1 conversation that Ms. Veselnitskaya and Mr.  
2 Akhmetshin had with him.

3 BY MR. FOSTER:

4 Q. Do you recall any of the discussion at  
5 the lunch about providing negative information  
6 about Hillary Clinton?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Or any plan to do that at the upcoming  
9 meeting?

10 A. No, sir. No. Her name did not come up  
11 at lunch, not that I recall.

12 BY MS. BRENNAN:

13 Q. At the meeting did Mr. Goldstone describe  
14 the nature of his business or who he worked for?

15 A. I was trying to describe earlier who I  
16 remembered at the meeting, and I know from press  
17 reports that Mr. Goldstone and Mr. Kaveladze were  
18 there. I personally have no recollection of them  
19 being at the meeting or saying anything, so I  
20 cannot testify to whether they said anything at  
21 all.

22 Q. Can you recount for us in as much detail  
23 as you remember what happened at the meeting?

24 A. Yeah. So after the round of  
25 introductions, which occurred on this side of the

1 table, we were all seated, and Ms. Veselnitskaya  
2 through me explained that she has information that  
3 she obtained through her research on the Magnitsky  
4 case about the American hedge fund firm Ziff  
5 Brothers who, according to her, were implicated in  
6 financial malfeasance in both Russia and the  
7 United States for nonpayment of taxes. And then  
8 she said that they were contributors -- and here I  
9 don't remember -- to either DNC or Hillary Clinton  
10 campaign. So that took about 3 minutes, 4  
11 minutes, after which Mr. Manafort said, well, that  
12 is not interesting, people give money to  
13 campaigns, different campaigns all the time.  
14 Again, this is not verbatim. This is my  
15 remembrance of what happened. And then he kind of  
16 withdrew from the meeting, and he sat with his  
17 telephone kind of turned halfway away from us.

18           And then it was Mr. Akhmetshin who spoke  
19 about HRAGI and the Magnitsky Act and how that  
20 became a casus belli, you know, sort of a reason  
21 why the first step that led to deterioration of  
22 the relationship and that the relationship could  
23 be repaired. I don't remember the precise thing,  
24 again, about what he said, but the general kind of  
25 gist of the conversation. And he spoke --



1 BY MR. FOSTER:

2 Q. I'm sorry. What relationship?

3 A. Huh?

4 Q. What relationship?

5 A. The Russo-American relationship.

6 Q. Okay. So he was -- was he purporting to  
7 speak for the Russian perspective in the  
8 relationship?

9 A. No. No, no, no, no, no. But he said --  
10 again, I don't remember the precise words of what  
11 he said, but what the foundation was trying to do  
12 is to basically seek the congressional review of  
13 the circumstances of Mr. Magnitsky's arrest and  
14 imprisonment. And that's what Mr. Akhmetshin  
15 briefly talked about and in very broad terms. But  
16 I don't think he was -- not to my recollection he  
17 stated any kind of government proposition or  
18 objective. And I don't remember any questions  
19 being asked. I can tell you that the meeting  
20 lasted about 20 minutes, and the reason I remember  
21 that is because I looked at my watch when we were  
22 waiting downstairs at the bar, and it was 25  
23 minutes past. And Mr. Donald Trump, Jr. --

24 Q. I'm sorry. I interrupted your narrative.  
25 I apologize. You were telling us what you recall

1 about Mr. Akhmetshin saying.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. How long did he speak? And what else do  
4 you remember about what he said?

5 A. He must have spoken for 10, 12, maybe 15  
6 minutes, something like that, because, again, I  
7 don't have the precise time log for you, but if we  
8 arrive promptly and the meeting started on time,  
9 it takes time to get to the elevator on 20-  
10 something floor. It takes time to get there and  
11 be seated at the bar. The meeting, 18 minutes, 20  
12 minutes. So I remember Ms. Veselnitskaya is doing  
13 her intro for 3 or 4. One remark that I recall  
14 from Mr. Manafort, the rest I recall is Mr.  
15 Akhmetshin basically talking about his work for  
16 the foundation. And at the end Mr. Trump said  
17 something along the lines -- and this is, again,  
18 not verbatim, but he said -- whether if or when, I  
19 don't remember, but he said that if my father  
20 becomes President, we will revisit the issue. And  
21 that was the end of it.

22 BY MS. BRENNAN:

23 Q. Did anyone mention Bill Browder?

24 A. At the meeting -- they must have, but I  
25 don't exactly precisely remember. I'm sorry,

1 ma'am. I can't give you the exact recollection,  
2 but logically, if they spoke about Ziff Brothers,  
3 Ziff Brothers were investors in Mr. Browder, so  
4 I'm sorry to offer you a logical deduction. They  
5 must have. But I just don't remember the  
6 specifics.

7 Q. Do you remember any specific discussion  
8 about the Russian ban on U.S. adoption of Russian  
9 children?

10 A. That was what was the general topic that  
11 Mr. Akhmetshin talked about.

12 Q. Did anyone ask that Donald Trump, Sr.,  
13 take any action regarding the Magnitsky Act or the  
14 Global Magnitsky Act if elected?

15 A No.

16 Q. Did anyone mention the Justice  
17 Department's lawsuit against Prevezon Holdings?

18 A No. Not that I recall.

19 Q. Nothing about the case that you recall?

20 A. I don't recall a discussion about the  
21 case, no.

22 Q. Did anyone mention support of the DNC or  
23 RNC?

24 A. Can you --

25 MR. KRANTZ: I'm sorry. When you say

1 "support"?

2 BY MS. BRENNAN:

3 Q. Support of the Democratic National  
4 Committee or the --

5 A. Whose support? I'm sorry. I'm just --

6 Q. Was there any discussion of the DNC or  
7 RNC?

8 A No.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Well, the only -- as I said, the only  
11 thing that I do not remember exactly is where the  
12 alleged Ziff contribution was, whether it was to  
13 DNC or directly to the campaign. So in that  
14 context, DNC might have mentioned -- might have  
15 been mentioned.

16 Q. What, if anything, did Ms. Veselnitskaya  
17 or her associates offer the Trump campaign?

18 MR. KRANTZ: I'm sorry. Beyond the  
19 statement that he already testified to? I'm  
20 sorry. I'm just not following that question,  
21 offer --

22 BY MS. BRENNAN:

23 Q. Did they offer anything to the Trump  
24 campaign? Did they offer reinstatement of U.S.  
25 adoptions of Russian children if the Magnitsky Act

1 was repealed or anything else?

2 A. I do not remember any specific offer of  
3 anything being made at the meeting or later.

4 Q. Were there any requests made of the  
5 campaign?

6 A No.

7 MR. FOSTER: You said you didn't remember a  
8 specific offer. Do you remember a general offer?

9 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: There was no general  
10 offer.

11 MS. BRENNAN: We are at our time, so we'll  
12 suspend and we'll come back to this.

13 MR. FOSTER: Off the record at 1:34.

14 [Recess at 1:34 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.]

15 MS. CLAFLIN: We are back on 1:45.

16 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

17 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

18 Q. Mr. Samochornov, I am Molly Claflin with  
19 Senator Feinstein's staff, and I want to thank you  
20 again for coming in today and making the trip  
21 down. I know it's a bit of a journey, and it  
22 sounds like a tumultuous day.

23 I'm going to apologize. We're going to  
24 have to go back and fill a couple holes, so we may  
25 have to go back in time a bit here as we start.

1           Just to begin, you said that you were  
2   contracted through an agency to do some  
3   interpretation for Kazakhstan. You said you had  
4   never done any interpreting directly for the  
5   Russian Government, but did you ever do it for  
6   other foreign governments through agencies?

7           A. No. Kazakhstan was the only example that  
8   comes to mind. With Secretary Clinton, I was  
9   contacted by the Italian mission in New York, but  
10  most of my work is done through an agency, and I  
11  never worked for the Russian Government or any  
12  other government in any capacity.

13          Q. Including through work that is contracted  
14  through agencies?

15          A. I never worked for the Russian  
16  Government, no.

17          Q. Okay.

18          A. Through agencies.

19          Q. You said before that you were referred to  
20  Ms. Veselnitskaya through another interpreter.  
21  Were you told anything about her background or  
22  about her from that person?

23          A. No. I was told that it is a deposition  
24  prep, in our lingo, and interpreters do quite a  
25  bit of court and legal work, so I was just told

1 that it's a civil litigation, that it involved  
2 finances, and that they are looking for  
3 interpreter for particular dates.

4 Q. And in your work with her, as you've  
5 spoken to her and got to know her, I assume you've  
6 learned some more about her background. Do you  
7 know if she's ever done any work for Aras or Emin  
8 Agalarov?

9 A. I read it recently in the newspaper  
10 articles. In my interactions with her, she did  
11 not mention these names, and she did not talk  
12 about that part of her work.

13 Q. Did she ever mention Yury Chaika?

14 A. She mentioned him as the prosecutor  
15 general, yes.

16 Q. But not as someone she'd worked with?

17 A. Not specifically. Not that I can recall.

18 Q. Do you know anything about her work for  
19 the Russian Federal Security Service, or FSB?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And I know you've done some work with her  
22 on the Prevezon matter. Are there any other  
23 projects that you've done for her?

24 A. I was involved in a small case that she  
25 also had in New York. It concerns Sberbank, so I

1 did two or three sessions of working on the  
2 Sberbank case. It was earlier this year, in the  
3 spring of this year.

4 Q. So it was after you had done the initial  
5 Prevezon work with her?

6 A. The Prevezon case settled in May 2017, so  
7 it was concurrent with the Prevezon case.

8 Q. Okay. And any other -- and that was  
9 translation services again?

10 A. Yes. Interpretation services.  
11 Translation is when you write. Interpreting is  
12 when you speak.

13 Q. Thank you. That's helpful.

14 A. Sorry for the correction.

15 [Laughter.]

16 Q. Very helpful. Going back quickly, what  
17 was the context in which she mentioned Yury  
18 Chaika? Do you recall?

19 A. Not specifically. And, again, it would  
20 be difficult to describe. It was my understanding  
21 that she had some sort of a connection at the  
22 Office of Prosecutor General, and, rather, not she  
23 but the older Mr. Katsyv. But, again, I can't  
24 give you the specific exact quote, unfortunately.  
25 I don't remember that.



1 Q. Okay. Have you ever done any work for  
2 Mr. Chaika?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Have you ever done any work for Emin  
5 Agalarov?

6 A. No.

7 Q. The Crocus Group?

8 A. No.

9 Q. How about Ike Kaveladze?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Rob Goldstone?

12 A. No.

13 Q. How about anyone from the Trump campaign?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Or the Trump Organization?

16 A. No. Can I say something?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. When you say "Trump campaign," I do not  
19 know everyone on the Trump campaign.

20 Q. Of course.

21 A. I've never done any political work, but I  
22 might have done an assignment for a company where  
23 people were involved. So I want to make that  
24 caveat, that 10 years ago I might have worked at  
25 Goldman Sachs at the same time that somebody was

1 there, so something like that --

2 MR. KRANTZ: I think it's implicit in the  
3 question that you knew to be associated with the  
4 Trump campaign.

5 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: No.

6 MS. CLAFLIN: Yes. I will clarify.

7 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Okay. Thank you.

8 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

9 Q. And before June 2016, had you ever  
10 communicated with Donald Trump?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Or Donald Trump, Jr.?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Paul Manafort?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Jared Kushner?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Ivanka Trump?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Or anyone that you knew to be from the  
21 Trump Organization?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. Have you ever performed any  
24 translation or interpreter work where anyone from  
25 the Trump Organization was present, if not your

1 client, that you knew?

2 A. No.

3 Q. I'm going to jump back. You mentioned  
4 that you were at a June 8th dinner.

5 A. I said that I don't remember whether  
6 there was a dinner or not, but Ms. Veselnitskaya  
7 typically included interpreters that worked with  
8 her in dinners, and she typically fed us. So what  
9 I said is that I don't remember whether there was  
10 a dinner, but if there was, there is a very good  
11 chance that I was there.

12 Q. I thought you said there was a dinner in  
13 early June. You said that there was a number of  
14 people there, including Mark Cymrot.

15 A. That was after June 9th meeting.

16 Q. After, okay.

17 A. That weekend, on either 12th or 13th.

18 Q. All right. Excuse me then. The 12th or  
19 13th. So at that dinner, can you walk us through  
20 a little more who else you think might have been  
21 there. You mentioned Ms. Veselnitskaya. You  
22 mentioned Mr. Cymrot. Do you recall anyone else  
23 for sure?

24 A. I definitely recall Mr. Simpson. I think  
25 Mr. Cymrot's wife was there. I think Mr.

1 Simpson's companion -- I do not know whether he is  
2 married, but a lady was present. I remember it  
3 being a rather large group of people.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I would say maybe between 16 and 20  
6 people.

7 Q. Okay. As far as you know, does Ms.  
8 Veselnitskaya only speak Russian? She does not  
9 speak English. Let me rephrase it.

10 A. No. She has very limited ability in  
11 English, and at some point things that she knows,  
12 like the story about Magnitsky, she asks people  
13 not to interpret for her. So she does have some  
14 understanding, and when we were at the appellate  
15 court, my best guesstimate that in spoken English  
16 on topics that she's familiar with, she gets 20  
17 percent.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. But I never heard her being able to order  
20 or communicate even in everyday language.

21 Q. So at something like the dinner on the  
22 12th or 13th, did you facilitate any conversations  
23 between her and the other dinner guests?

24 A. I don't remember. I must have, but I --  
25 I remember that there was a dinner. I remember

1 that they talked about the movie that was about to  
2 be shown, I believe next Monday. But I don't  
3 remember the specifics of that dinner.

4 Q. Okay. I think we can skip forward now  
5 back to the June 9th meeting, and, again,  
6 apologies for skipping around. The joy of our  
7 set-up we have here.

8 A. Glad to help.

9 Q. I just want to clarify a few things about  
10 your involvement in the June 9th meeting. I think  
11 you said that you were on retainer in June of  
12 2016.

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. And so you had planned on interpreting  
15 for her for the day.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you went to court and then ended up  
18 going to this meeting with her. Is that more or  
19 less --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. So it sounds like you didn't get a  
22 specific call or email about this meeting. Is  
23 that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 MS. CLAFLIN: Okay. Document 1. This

1 document I'd like to be marked Exhibit No. 1.

2 [Samochornov Exhibit 1 was marked for

3 identification.]

4 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

5 Q. So this is an email between Rob Goldstone  
6 and Natalia Veselnitskaya that was provided to the  
7 Committee by the Trump Organization. She writes  
8 that, "Mr. Akhmetshin has signed an NDA with us,  
9 as did Mr. Samochornov." Who is "us"?

10 MR. KRANTZ: What's his understanding?

11 MS. CLAFLIN: What is your understanding for  
12 this, yeah.

13 MR. KRANTZ: Take your time and read it.  
14 It's not his emails. You just want him to read it  
15 and give you his best understanding of who "us"  
16 is?

17 MS. CLAFLIN: Exactly.

18 [Pause.]

19 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: My best guess, it would be  
20 with "us" meaning both BakerHostetler and HRAGIF.

21 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

22 Q. Okay. And who did you believe you were  
23 working for at this meeting?

24 A. At that meeting I was paid by HRAGIF or  
25 HRAGI.

1 Q. Okay. So that's who you invoiced for the  
2 meeting?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MR. KRANTZ: He was on retainer.

6 MS. CLAFLIN: Right. I'm sorry. Yes.

7 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

8 Q. Is this the message that you typed on Ms.  
9 Veselnitskaya's phone?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay, so this is what we were referring  
12 to earlier.

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And now going on to the lunch, I believe  
15 you said you went to lunch on June 9th as part of  
16 the meeting. Where was that lunch? Do you  
17 remember?

18 A. Yes. Can I make one more comment --

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. -- about the NDA? The NDA was signed by  
21 me on October 2015. I did not know anything about  
22 Mr. Akhmetshin's NDA, but that was a general NDA,  
23 and for me as an interpreter, I just want to say  
24 that I have NDAs in 99 percent of my contracts.

25 Q. So there was not an NDA that was specific

1 to the meeting?

2 A. It was not an NDA that was specifically  
3 requested for the meeting, no.

4 Q. Just part of the retainer.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that.

7 A. Sorry. You asked the name of the  
8 restaurant and --

9 Q. If you recall.

10 A. The restaurant was called Nello, and it  
11 was a favorite of Ms. Veselnitskaya's.

12 Q. And you also mentioned at the lunch that  
13 there was a white folder that you believed she was  
14 planning to take with her?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What gave you the impression that she was  
17 planning to take it with her to the meeting?

18 A. It was rather my recollection, because  
19 when I read the press reports, I initially did not  
20 remember any documents brought to the meeting.  
21 But when I read Mr. Akhmetshin's report and what  
22 he said to the press, I had just a visual  
23 recollection it was a white plastic folder that  
24 she kept with her, and I remember it being at  
25 lunch. And I remember that she said that she was



1 taking it to the meeting.

2 Q. But you don't remember any documents  
3 being discussed specifically at lunch?

4 A. No. I don't remember it being opened,  
5 and I can't offer you any details on that.

6 Q. Okay. No, that's fine.

7 BY MR. PRIVOR:

8 Q. What specifically do you recall her  
9 saying that made you think she was taking it with  
10 her?

11 A. Sir, I am afraid I'm not able to give you  
12 precise language. I understood -- it is rather my  
13 recollection and my understanding rather than what  
14 she directly said that it was materials that she  
15 prepared about the Magnitsky Act to take and to  
16 leave with Mr. Trump, Donald Trump, Jr.

17 Q. Did you ever see what was inside the  
18 folder?

19 A. I did not.

20 Q. Do you have any idea whether those  
21 documents were in English or Russian?

22 A. I do not. I would assume -- again,  
23 that's my guess -- that they would be in English  
24 since they were meant to be left with the -- with  
25 Mr. Donald Trump, Jr. But I have no direct

1 knowledge of it.

2 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

3 Q. So you don't recall seeing any documents  
4 that were prepared for this meeting or possibly  
5 distributed at the meeting?

6 A No.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I don't even -- I cannot even testify to  
9 whether this was left at the meeting or not. I  
10 don't know.

11 Q. And it sounds like you didn't yourself do  
12 much to prepare for the meeting because it sounds  
13 like you didn't really know what was happening?

14 A. What do you mean "prepare"?

15 Q. Whether it's preparing documents or doing  
16 research.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you communicate with anyone about the  
19 meeting before it took place other than Ms.  
20 Veselnitskaya?

21 A No.

22 BY MS. SAWYER:

23 Q. Before we move on, can I just ask another  
24 question about the lunch? You were asked a number  
25 of questions about what topics did come up. Do

1 you recall any discussion at the lunch about the  
2 Ziff Brothers?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Do you recall any discussion at the lunch  
5 about tax improprieties and donations to the DNC?

6 A. I don't think it's more -- what I recall  
7 -- and forgive me, it's also going to be general  
8 in character. I recall Ms. Veselnitskaya talking  
9 to Mr. Kaveladze primarily and Mr. Akhmetshin  
10 about the research that she did on Mr. Browder and  
11 Mr. Magnitsky. And so it was Mr. Browder's  
12 financial improprieties that were discussed, as  
13 far as I can recall. But as I have described,  
14 since it was in Russian, I didn't really need to  
15 participate. I maybe talked with them for 14, 15  
16 minutes and then excused myself and just, you  
17 know, did some of the phone work to catch up with  
18 my messages. So I wasn't exactly there present  
19 for the entire lunch in terms of paying attention.

20 Q. Do you recall hearing anything that Ms.  
21 Veselnitskaya opened the meeting with discussed  
22 during the lunch that occurred before the meeting?

23 A. No. And I can tell you my reaction, that  
24 I was surprised that she was bringing it up. I  
25 heard her bring it up again, and I was a little

1 personally surprised that she would discuss that.

2 MR. KRANTZ: The question was just what was  
3 said.

4 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Sorry. I understand,  
5 yeah.

6 BY MS. SAWYER:

7 Q. When you say you heard her bring it up  
8 again, what were you referring to?

9 A. She discussed that matter several times  
10 before.

11 Q. Before the meeting on June 9th?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. So this was not the first time you had  
14 heard her discuss it?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. And what was the context of those other  
17 discussions?

18 A. She talked about it with her attorneys in  
19 the Prevezon case before the meeting, and then she  
20 talked about it with her public relations person  
21 after the meeting.

22 Q. Okay. So when did the --

23 MR. KRANTZ: Those are privileged  
24 conversations?

25 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I think that the

1 attorneys' were. The public relations', I don't  
2 think so. It was --

3 MR. KRANTZ: Well, it depends on if the  
4 public relations firm is hired to assist the  
5 lawyers in the representation, so I don't know the  
6 answer to the question. It may be privileged; it  
7 may not. It depends on the specific  
8 circumstances.

9 BY MS. SAWYER:

10 Q. So when did the conversation with her  
11 attorneys take place on this topic?

12 A. It occurred several times throughout the  
13 winter and spring 2015 to 2016. I can't put  
14 current issues with specific dates.

15 Q. And then when did the conversation with  
16 the public relations people take place?

17 A. It must have been between June 10th and  
18 June 13th.

19 Q. And why is it that you recall that time  
20 span?

21 A. As I have described, I had a particular  
22 circumstance where I had a previous commitment to  
23 Random House and PEN America and New York Library  
24 to go and work for Ms. Alexievich. And I took a  
25 train at the end of late hours on Sunday to start

1 working on Monday in New York. And that's why --  
2 and I remember interpreting the meeting at Cozen  
3 O'Connor sometime during that period. And if I  
4 remember, that meeting occurred precisely before  
5 the dinner that we talked about. Actually, we  
6 went from that meeting to the dinner.

7 Q. And what was the purpose of that meeting  
8 that occurred before the dinner? And so this was  
9 on the 13th, as best you can recall it?

10 A. What was -- yeah, 13th or 12th. She was  
11 -- the foundation was engaging Cozen O'Connor as  
12 their PR people, and she met with a gentleman  
13 whose name I don't now remember to talk about the  
14 case and her findings.

15 Q. And do you recall their reaction to this  
16 conversation about the Ziff Brothers?

17 MR. KRANTZ: So whose reaction?

18 MS. SAWYER: The public relations team.

19 MR. KRANTZ: So I just think you need to,  
20 unfortunately, not discuss that conversation  
21 because it may, in fact, be privileged. Cozen  
22 O'Connor's public relations firm is a -- it's also  
23 a law firm, Cozen O'Connor, and I don't know if  
24 they're acting at the direction of lawyers or not.  
25 So I would suggest erring on the side of safety.

1 BY MS. SAWYER:

2 Q. And so that dinner and this meeting was  
3 in Washington?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Given that you never saw the materials in  
6 the white folder, is it possible that those  
7 materials had to do with allegations she was  
8 making about the Ziff Brothers?

9 A. I can't answer --

10 MR. KRANTZ: Is it possible?

11 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yes, it is possible.

12 MR. KRANTZ: Anything's possible. I don't  
13 think he knows one way or the other.

14 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

15 Q. Along those lines, did you translate any  
16 documents in advance of the meeting?

17 MR. KRANTZ: For the meeting?

18 MS. CLAFLIN: For the meeting.

19 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: For the meeting, no.

20 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

21 Q. Had you ever translated any documents  
22 about the Magnitsky Act before for Ms.  
23 Veselnitskaya?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But not, to your knowledge, specifically

1 for this meeting?

2 A No.

3 MS. CLAFLIN: I'm marking this as Exhibit 2.

4 [Samochornov Exhibit 2 was marked for

5 identification.]

6 MR. KRANTZ: Do you need to mark it or --

7 MS. CLAFLIN: I did.

8 MR. KRANTZ: Oh, you did.

9 MS. CLAFLIN: Yes.

10 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

11 Q. This is an email from Ms. Veselnitskaya  
12 to Mr. Kaveladze. My question is: Do you know if  
13 this is the document that you translated for her?

14 A. No, I have never seen this document  
15 before.

16 Q. Okay. So it's not something you  
17 recognize. You've done Magnitsky translations for  
18 her in the past, but this is not that.

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. Going back to the June 9th  
21 meeting, what were you told in advance about who  
22 else would be attending?

23 A. Nothing.

24 Q. Did you know any of the attendees before  
25 you got to the main room?



1           A. I knew Mr. Akhmetshin.

2           Q. Were you told that Donald Trump, Jr.,  
3 would be there?

4           A. Yes. When we wrote that note that you  
5 showed me before.

6           Q. Right.

7           A. I believe, it is my recollection, that  
8 this is when I was told that there would be a  
9 meeting with Donald Trump, Jr.

10          Q. Were you told about Mr. Kushner?

11          A. No.

12          Q. Or Mr. Manafort?

13          A. No.

14          Q. Were you told about anyone else that was  
15 expected, even if they didn't end up attending?

16          A. No.

17          Q. And you said, I think you said that you  
18 had not met any of them before the meeting.

19          A. Except for Mr. Akhmetshin.

20          Q. Akhmetshin. At the June 9th meeting, was  
21 Mr. Goldstone at the meeting?

22          A. As I said, I remember him taking us up  
23 and taking us down. I remember a remark that he  
24 made taking us down. But I do not have a  
25 recollection of him physically being in the room

1 for just whatever reason, a memory quirk.

2 Q. And I think you say there were some  
3 people that came in with -- you said "him." I'm  
4 just trying to clarify. Was that Mr. Kushner?

5 A. Can you give me the context?

6 Q. I believe when you had described the  
7 meeting, you had said that from the Trump  
8 campaign, Donald Trump, Jr., arrived and then Mr.  
9 Manafort and Mr. Kushner and some other people  
10 that came with him.

11 A. That's not how I remember it. I  
12 remember, as I have described -- and, again, I am  
13 going to be showing you the sides of the room  
14 because it's easier for me. So the meet-and-greet  
15 happened here, this side of the table, and it was  
16 Mr. Trump and Mr. Manafort. I don't think Mr.  
17 Kushner was there at that time. I think he  
18 arrived later, and I don't think he -- I don't  
19 remember him being formally introduced. It's just  
20 I don't have that recollection. But I remember  
21 him -- I recognized him, and he got up and left at  
22 approximately a couple minutes after Mr.  
23 Akhmetshin started talking.

24 Q. Okay. But I believe you said earlier  
25 that there were some other people that came in as

1 well.

2           A. And, again, I'm not trying to be  
3 difficult. I remember across the room that there  
4 was Mr. Kushner in the middle, and there were some  
5 people together with him, but I don't remember who  
6 they were.

7           Q. Okay. Do you recall if any of those  
8 other people stayed the whole meeting or --

9           A. I believe -- I believe Mr. Kushner was  
10 the only one who left the room. But having said  
11 that, I'm not 100 percent sure.

12          Q. That's okay. And you don't recall how  
13 many people?

14          A. No.

15          Q. Ballpark?

16          A. It's again, you know, kind of a funny  
17 memory. I remember -- I told you that Mr. Trump,  
18 Jr., was seated here, Mr. Manafort. I remember  
19 somebody sitting next to him. So I remember there  
20 were people all around the table, but how many, I  
21 can't tell you precisely. I remember the position  
22 exactly of five people.

23          Q. Okay. And did you ever introduce  
24 yourself at the meeting or say who you were  
25 representing or your role?

1           A. I don't recall.

2           Q. Did you go around the room and the other  
3 participants introduced themselves?

4           A. I don't recall. What I remember was this  
5 initial meet-and-great, exchange of pleasantries,  
6 and we were seated down.

7           Q. Was most of the meeting conducted in  
8 Russian or English?

9           A. So the first 5 minutes, whatever, Ms.  
10 Veselnitskaya took to speak was her speaking in  
11 Russian with me translating -- interpreting,  
12 rather. I'm making my own mistake. Interpreting  
13 her. And because I worked with her on and off for  
14 a year and a half, I'm able to almost translate  
15 her simultaneously, so it was kind of a voiceover.  
16 And then there was a question from Mr. Manafort,  
17 and the rest of the meeting, Mr. Akhmetshin spoke,  
18 and Ms. Veselnitskaya asked me not to interpret.

19          Q. So you didn't interpret back for her in  
20 Russian what was going on for the rest of the  
21 meeting?

22          A. No.

23          Q. Did you translate for anyone else or just  
24 for her?

25          A. Just for her.

1 Q. I think you laid out before what you  
2 heard discussed at the meeting. Was Hillary  
3 Clinton's name mentioned?

4           A. I don't recall her name being mentioned,  
5 no.

6 Q. Do you recall any discussion about  
7 negative information on Hillary Clinton?

8 A. I don't.

9 MR. KRANTZ: You indicated that there were  
10 contributions either to the DNC or Hillary  
11 Clinton?

12 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yes, I believe that --

13 MR. KRANTZ: I'm not sure which.

14 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yeah, my understanding was  
15 that that opening was the information.

16 MS. CLAFLIN: I'm marking this as Exhibit 3.

17 [Samochornov Exhibit 3 was marked for  
18 identification.]

19 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

20 Q. I'll note this is an email between Rob  
21 Goldstone and Donald Trump, Jr., and a few other  
22 recipients. You are not a recipient on this  
23 email. But if you go down to the page Bates-  
24 stamped 11897, "Rob Goldstone has offered the  
25 campaign some official documents and information

1 that would incriminate Hillary and her dealings  
2 with Russia and would be very useful to your  
3 father."

4 A. Yes, I see that.

5 Q. Do you recall at the meeting if anyone  
6 from the campaign asked about what was promised in  
7 this email?

8 A. No, I do not.

9 Q. Okay. Do you recall if Don, Jr., Jared  
10 Kushner, or Mr. Manafort made any requests of  
11 Veselnitskaya or of any other participants?

12 A. No, they did not.

13 Q. I believe you said Mr. Manafort made a  
14 comment at some point. Did Mr. Kushner ever  
15 comment during the meeting?

16 A. I don't recall Mr. Kushner speaking at  
17 the meeting at all.

18 Q. Do you recall Donald Trump, Jr., speaking  
19 during the meeting?

20 A. I recall the parting phrase, but I don't  
21 recall any of his other remarks.

22 Q. Was there any mention during the meeting  
23 of possible information that might be provided in  
24 the future?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did anyone suggest they would offer at a  
2 later time negative information on Hillary  
3 Clinton?

4 A No.

5 Q. Was there any mention of a future meeting  
6 at all?

7 A. No. Like I described, I remember, not  
8 verbatim, the closing that Mr. Donald Trump, Jr.,  
9 provided, but that's all that I recall being said  
10 from the other side.

11 MR. PRIVOR: That closing being that Donald  
12 Trump, Jr., suggested --

13 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: If or when -- yes, and I  
14 do not remember if or when, but if or when my  
15 father becomes President, we will revisit this  
16 issue.

17 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

18 Q. Did you take any notes during the  
19 meeting?

20 A No.

21 Q. Or I think you said you did not recall  
22 any documents being exchanged?

23 A. Right. Yes, that is correct.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I do not.

1 BY MR. PRIVOR:

2 Q. When Donald Trump, Jr., referred to  
3 revisiting this issue, were those the words he  
4 used, do you recall?

5 A. That's the best of my recollection.

6 Q. Do you know what he -- what did you  
7 understand he meant when he said "this issue"?

8 A. Frankly, if you are asking for my  
9 reaction, it was a very polite way of saying,  
10 "Thank you very much. It's time for you to go.  
11 The meeting's over." Basically, he was very  
12 polite, but after Mr. Akhmetshin's speech, they  
13 kind of started hinting that, you know, time is  
14 up.

15 Q. But did you have any understanding of  
16 what he meant by "this issue"?

17 A. What he meant was what he heard about the  
18 adoptions and the Magnitsky law. That was my  
19 understanding.

20 MS. CLAFLIN: I think that's about most of  
21 my questions for the actual meeting. Does anybody  
22 want to jump in?

23 [No response.]

24 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

25 Q. You've started on this path a bit, but



1 can you describe where you went after the meeting?

2 A. Yes. So when we came out of the meeting,

3 Ms. Veselnitskaya remarked that she was

4 disappointed. She said in Russian, [Russian

5 phrase], "This was it." And it was either Mr.

6 Goldstone or Mr. Akhmetshin who in the elevator

7 said, "Well, you put your issue forward. They now

8 know about your issue. It was a good meeting."

9 And that was a conversation during the drinks that  
10 we have had downstairs at the Trump Tower Bar.

11 Q. Do you know why she felt disappointed?

12 Was it the reaction of the other side? Was it

13 something someone said?

14 A. I can't speak for Ms. Veselnitskaya. I

15 know that she was expecting something else from

16 the meeting, something bigger. She said, "This

17 was it."

18 Q. Did Mr. Akhmetshin express any feelings

19 about the meeting?

20 A. What I told you, I think he was trying to

21 say, well, you've put your issue forward, you

22 know, it's an introduction, that type of stuff.

23 But feelings specifically, no, not to me.

24 Q. Was there any discussion of what to do

25 next?

1           A. No. I mean, what to do next that day?

2 Or you mean what to do next in regards to the

3 meeting and --

4           Q. With regards to the meeting in terms of

5 she felt that meeting was disappointing. Was

6 there discussion of what she thought should be the

7 next step?

8           A. No.

9           Q. I think you said you had drinks at the

10 bar?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. With whom?

13          A. So there were four people. I do not

14 remember Mr. Goldstone being there. So he left at

15 some point, either upstairs or downstairs. Again,

16 I'm not sure. But it was me, Ms. Veselnitskaya,

17 Mr. Akhmetshin, and Mr. Kaveladze.

18          Q. Okay. Was there any discussion of the

19 meeting with anyone after June 9th? Did you

20 contact anyone or did anyone contact you about the

21 meeting?

22          A. No. I had one conversation about this

23 meeting with Ms. Veselnitskaya.

24          MR. KRANTZ: After June 9th?

25          MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Huh?

1 MR. KRANTZ: Afterwards, after June 9th?

2 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Afterwards, yes.

3 BY MS. CLAFLIN:

4 Q. Not with Mr. Kaveladze?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Or Mr. Goldstone?

7 A. I have never met Mr. Goldstone after that  
8 day.

9 Q. Or Mr. Akhmetshin?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. Was there any other follow-up that  
12 you ever did from this meeting, any documents you  
13 might have translated at a later date?

14 A. No, ma'am.

15 Q. Have you had any further contact with  
16 anyone associated with the Trump campaign after  
17 the meeting?

18 A. No.

19 Q. It sounds like you've done more work with  
20 Ms. Veselnitskaya since that meeting.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Have you had any future contact with Mr.  
23 Akhmetshin?

24 A. After June 9th?

25 Q. After June 9th.

1           A. Yes.

2           Q. And how about Mr. Kaveladze?

3           A. Yes, I met him, as I have described, one  
4 or two times when he was introducing Ms.  
5 Veselnitskaya to this other lawyer.

6           Q. Okay. And what was the Akhmetshin  
7 contact?

8           A. I traveled to Washington, and he invited  
9 me out for a couple of drinks. And when he came  
10 to New York, he also invited me out. And then I  
11 saw him again sometime in spring of 2017. So we  
12 saw each other kind of semi-socially, semi-  
13 professionally every 2 to 3 months.

14          Q. Did you ever discuss this meeting with  
15 him?

16          A. No.

17          Q. You said there was one more discussion  
18 with Ms. Veselnitskaya after June 9th.

19          A. Yes.

20          Q. What was discussed at that meeting?

21          A. It was actually me who remarked that when  
22 this meeting is going to become known, you might  
23 have some very bad publicity about the case. And  
24 her concern was whether her client will get a fair  
25 trial with all the negative information in the

1 media. And she said, well, but that meeting was  
2 nothing. I said, well, it wasn't exactly nothing  
3 because Mr. Kushner was there. And she said,  
4 well, I don't remember Kushner. I said he was the  
5 one who left. So from that conversation, it  
6 appeared that she, at least to me, said that she  
7 didn't remember and didn't know that Mr. Kushner  
8 was at the meeting.

9 Q. And when you say "negative information  
10 about the case," you mean the Prevezon case?

11 A. Correct, yes.

12 Q. Okay. Had you done any work with Ms.  
13 Veselnitskaya about the Magnitsky Act in November  
14 of 2016?

15 A. I don't think so. I don't recall.

16 Q. You don't recall translating any  
17 documents for her at that time?

18 A. November 2016, Magnitsky Act? I might  
19 have, but give me more specifics. I don't  
20 remember. There was a lot of stuff going on.

21 In November, I really don't think so  
22 because my recollection is, as I said, the case  
23 was stayed, and I had virtually no contact with  
24 Ms. Veselnitskaya between June 2016, end of June,  
25 until about November. And she came back in

1 November to interview and to hire new counsel.

2 Q. Were you working with her in November  
3 2016? Did you go with her to meetings and to  
4 court again?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But this topic did not come up, this  
7 meeting?

8 A. Well, the case -- no, the meeting with  
9 Mr. Donald Trump, Jr., no, it did not come up.  
10 But the Magnitsky issue did come up because that  
11 was the predicate crime upon which the civil case  
12 was based.

13 Q. Okay. News of the June 9th meeting came  
14 out in the press in July 2017. Other than your  
15 lawyers, did you discuss the meeting with anyone  
16 else before the public reporting came out?

17 A. You mean before June 8th? No. July 8th,  
18 no.

19 Q. July, yes. Around the time that the  
20 meeting came out in the press, so July 2017, did  
21 anyone else in the meeting contact you?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did Alan --

24 A. Hold on. Rephrase that question. I did  
25 tell you about my contact with Mr. Akhmetshin.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. But other than that, nobody else  
3 contacted me.

4 Q. So Mr. Goldstone --

5 A. No.

6 Q. Kaveladze, Trump, Jr., Manafort, Kushner.

7 A. None of those people ever contacted me  
8 again.

9 Q. How about Alan Futerfas?

10 A. I do not know who that is, ma'am.

11 Q. Okay. And as far as you know, no one  
12 representing or associated with, to your  
13 knowledge, the Trump Organization or Trump  
14 campaign contacted you?

15 A. No.

16 BY MS. QUINT:

17 Q. Can I ask you one follow-up question?  
18 Did you see anyone else in the Trump family other  
19 than Don, Jr., and Kushner at the meeting?

20 A. Yes. I briefly saw Ms. Ivanka Trump pass  
21 through the lobby, but she did not stop and it was  
22 just she walked through.

23 BY MR. PRIVOR:

24 Q. I want to take you back to the end of the  
25 June 9th meeting. You said that you went

1 downstairs to the bar, and you took the elevator  
2 down with -- Mr. Goldstone was in the elevator  
3 with you; is that right?

4       A. I don't remember 100 percent. I think  
5 that he was, but I can't vouch for it.

6       Q. Did you see before you got on the  
7 elevator -- after the meeting disbanded and had  
8 broken up but before you got on the elevator, did  
9 you see Mr. Goldstone speaking to Donald Trump,  
10 Jr.?

11       A. I don't know. I don't remember that. I  
12 didn't see it.

13       Q. Okay. So no side conversation that you  
14 can recall witnessing?

15       A. I didn't see it. I remember us kind of  
16 being ushered into the lobby and put on the  
17 elevator and that was it. I don't remember any  
18 particular interactions that stuck in my mind.

19 BY MS. QUINT:

20       Q. Do you know why Mr. Kushner left early?  
21 Could you sense or did he say anything?

22       A. No idea. He just got up with his phone  
23 and left.

24       MS. CLAFLIN: I think we will go ahead and  
25 break now then and switch back to the majority.



1 MR. FOSTER: We'll go off at 2:26.

2 [Pause at 2:26 p.m. to 2:27 p.m.]

3 MS. BRENNAN: We'll go back on the record at  
4 2:27 p.m.

5 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY  
6 BY MS. BRENNAN:

7 Q. So Molly covered any topics that were  
8 discussed at the meeting. Just to round out that  
9 line of questioning, outside of giving her  
10 introductory summary -- or the introductory  
11 information about the Ziff Brothers, did Ms.  
12 Veselnitskaya speak at all throughout the rest of  
13 the meeting?

14 A. Not that I recall.

15 Q. Did you give her a summary of what  
16 happened at the meeting, either during the meeting  
17 or after the meeting?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you know how she got a sense that the  
20 meeting was not as successful as she hoped it  
21 would be?

22 A. I know it only from her remark. She  
23 looked disappointed, and in the elevator she said,  
24 "This was it." That's what was said.

25 Q. And that was the extent of your

1 conversation about the meeting?

2       A. Well, they later, as I said, continued  
3 the discussion, I think, between Mr. Akhmetshin  
4 and Mr. Kaveladze at the bar, saying that it is a  
5 good first step and you put your issue out there.  
6 And I think if I may offer my observation, they  
7 were trying to -- how should I put it? -- make her  
8 feel better.

9 BY MR. FOSTER:

10       Q. I'm sorry, but you said earlier, I  
11 thought, that you didn't interpret any of what  
12 other people were saying for her.

13       A. Correct, yes.

14       Q. So how would she know that the meeting  
15 went poorly? Does she understand English?

16       A. Maybe some of it, but I think as I said,  
17 on the topics that she's familiar with -- I cannot  
18 tell you exactly what her knowledge of English is.  
19 I haven't tested her. Based on my experience  
20 with her in the appellate court and, again, about  
21 something, a matter that she was very familiar  
22 with, she seemed to follow and understand roughly  
23 between 20 and 30 percent of what is being said.  
24 So she can follow the general discussion on the  
25 topics that she's familiar with. But that's what

1 I have observed. I have not heard her speak  
2 English with anyone beyond asking for onions or  
3 coffee. She asked me several times to find her an  
4 English teacher because she wanted to learn  
5 English, but it never materialized. But I cannot  
6 offer you decisive testimony as to what her level  
7 of understanding of English was -- or is.

8 BY MR. DAVIS:

9 Q. Did you have any indication that Mr.  
10 Akhmetshin or Mr. Kaveladze filled her in in  
11 Russian as to what had happened at the meeting in  
12 English?

13 A. Say that again, please? Sorry.

14 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did either  
15 Mr. Akhmetshin or Mr. Kaveladze speak in Russian  
16 to Ms. Veselnitskaya about the English portion of  
17 the meeting?

18 A. That I can definitely answer in the  
19 negative, because Ms. Veselnitskaya was sitting to  
20 the left of me and Mr. Akhmetshin was sitting  
21 next. I don't remember Mr. Kaveladze. So  
22 anything that was said was said in that very short  
23 space.

24 BY MR. FOSTER:

25 Q. And you don't recall either of them

1 speaking to her in Russian about the --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- English portion of the meeting?

4 A. No.

5 BY MS. BRENNAN:

6 Q. Do you remember if Mr. Kaveladze said  
7 anything during the meeting?

8 A. I don't know. And as I said, I cannot  
9 testify whether he was at the meeting or not. I  
10 do not remember him at the meeting.

11 Q. I know that you've said that you also  
12 don't remember Mr. Goldstone being at the meeting,  
13 so I guess I'll ask: Do you remember if he  
14 discussed his VK proposal at the meeting for  
15 social media page?

16 MR. KRANTZ: His what? I'm sorry. VK?

17 MS. BRENNAN: What's that abbreviation for?

18 MR. KRANTZ: Kontakte.

19 MS. BRENNAN: Kontakte.

20 MR. KRANTZ: The Russian version of  
21 Facebook.

22 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I do not remember that,  
23 Mr. Goldstone speaking at the meeting.

24 BY MS. BRENNAN:

25 Q. Okay.

1           A. And I would have remembered the mention  
2 of Kontakte. I understand that. I don't think  
3 that phrase was mentioned at the meeting.

4           MR. FOSTER: By anyone?

5           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: By anyone.

6 BY MS. BRENNAN:

7           Q. And just to confirm, outside of the --  
8 other than the question -- or other than the  
9 statement that Mr. Trump, Jr., made at the end of  
10 the meeting, do you remember if he asked any other  
11 questions or made any other statements?

12          A. I don't remember.

13          Q. You said that you did not take any notes  
14 at the meeting. Do you remember if anyone else  
15 took notes at the meeting?

16          A. Again, my recollection is not precise,  
17 and I don't want to mislead you. I have kind of a  
18 vision on the periphery that somebody there took  
19 notes. Whether it was Mr. Manafort typing on the  
20 phone or whether it was somebody else, I cannot  
21 honestly tell you. But Ms. Veselnitskaya did not  
22 and Mr. Akhmetshin didn't either.

23          Q. Do you remember -- did Ms. Veselnitskaya  
24 leave the document that she intended to leave with  
25 Mr. Trump, Jr.?

1           A. Unfortunately, I don't remember. I'm  
2 unable to tell you either way.

3           Q. Were there any documents passed around  
4 during the meeting?

5           A. No.

6           Q. Was there any discussion between members  
7 of the Trump campaign and the group of you who  
8 came to the meeting at the end, or was it just Mr.  
9 Trump, Jr.'s comment? As you were all leaving,  
10 was there any discussion?

11          A. No, and I think, now that you are asking,  
12 that Mr. Manafort and Mr. Donald Trump, Jr., must  
13 have somehow left through a different door because  
14 they said that phrase, said their goodbyes, and  
15 then we were ushered to the elevator by Mr.  
16 Goldstone. But I don't think they walked us to  
17 the elevator. I don't remember that.

18          MS. BRENNAN: Do you have any other  
19 questions?

20 BY MR. DAVIS:

21          Q. Did any attendee request additional  
22 meetings or communications with any member of the  
23 Trump campaign?

24          A. Not that I'm aware of.

25          Q. And are you generally familiar with the

1 lobbying pitch the Human Rights Accountability  
2 Global Initiative has made to Members of Congress  
3 and congressional staff, broad themes?

4 A. I'm aware of with the broad themes. I am  
5 not aware with the lobbying pitch, but I am aware  
6 of with the documents and with the general  
7 background, yes.

8 Q. To the best of your knowledge, was the  
9 information provided during the Trump Tower  
10 meeting generally the same as that other Human  
11 Rights Accountability Global Initiative  
12 information?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. KRANTZ: Referring to the information  
15 about that subject matter.

16 BY MR. DAVIS:

17 Q. In general, the topic of the Trump Tower  
18 meeting, does it in general match your  
19 understanding of the HRAGI information?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Were there any material differences  
22 between what was discussed at the meeting and the  
23 general HRAGI concerns?

24 MR. KRANTZ: Are you talking about the piece  
25 where Ms. Veselnitskaya spoke or the other piece,

1 or both?

2 MR. DAVIS: Both pieces.

3 MR. KRANTZ: I think you need to clarify  
4 that. I'm having trouble understanding that  
5 question.

6 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I think Ms. Veselnitskaya  
7 did not speak for a very long time and certainly  
8 did not add any details. Her previous  
9 presentations were rather more extensive.

10 MR. KRANTZ: Maybe I'm just going to say if  
11 you understand the question, that's fine.

12 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: I remember her drawing  
13 diagrams and getting into great details about what  
14 she alleged was the Ziff Brothers' malfeasance.  
15 So what she gave Mr. Trump was a very brief  
16 version, so it's actually the reverse from what  
17 you have asked. So it was more of a concise  
18 version of what was presented. I am familiar with  
19 her declaration to Congress. I've read it, and  
20 it's like 16 pages long. So, you know, rather  
21 than expand or say something that wasn't said  
22 before, they were trying to communicate in a  
23 concise way. Does that answer your question?

24 MR. DAVIS: It does. Thank you.

25 BY MR. FOSTER:



1           Q. So on one of these other occasions that  
2 you recall her giving more extensive -- a more  
3 extensive presentation with diagrams and so forth?

4           A. As I have said, she talked to her  
5 attorneys at least several times through the  
6 winter about the alleged Ziff Brothers'  
7 involvement in the --

8           MR. KRANTZ: Those are privileged  
9 conversations you're not going to get into.

10          MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yes. And then there was  
11 another conversation about which we also do not  
12 have clarity whether it was privileged. She  
13 talked with her publicist as well after that  
14 meeting. But I can testify to you that there were  
15 numerous several prior and post occasions where  
16 that information and in greater detail was  
17 provided by Ms. Veselnitskaya to other people.

18          MR. KRANTZ: So could I speak to the witness  
19 for one moment? Because I'm under a  
20 misconception, and I want to see if it's me or  
21 you, or the question.

22          [Counsel confers with witness.]

23          MR. KRANTZ: Okay. I think the witness can  
24 clarify, and then we'll all be on the same  
25 wavelength.

1           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Okay. So I just would  
2 like to make a clarification that the witness  
3 spoke about Ziff Brother matters in private  
4 settings prior to the June 9th meeting.

5           MR. FOSTER: I'm sorry. Who --

6           MR. KRANTZ: The witness, he means --

7           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Excuse me. Ms.  
8 Veselnitskaya. I apologize. Ms. Veselnitskaya  
9 spoke about the alleged Ziff Brothers' involvement  
10 in contributions in private settings before June  
11 9th meeting.

12          MR. KRANTZ: In the private settings that  
13 are presumably privileged.

14 BY MS. BRENNAN:

15          Q. So after the meeting, you said that you  
16 went to the bar in the building and had drinks.  
17 Would you talk about what you did after that?

18          A. I don't have a precise recollection. I  
19 think I went home for a while, but I also remember  
20 that Mr. Akhmetshin came to New York to attend a  
21 play, and his relative was in that play. And I  
22 don't remember whether that evening or the next  
23 evening we attended the play. It might have been  
24 that evening. It was at the City Center in New  
25 York.

1 Q. You attended the play as well?

2 A. Yes, together with Ms. Veselnitskaya and  
3 Mr. Akhmetshin. As I recall, he was the one who  
4 invited me.

5 Q. And you don't remember if that was on  
6 June 9th or June 10th?

7 A. I do not. But it could have been on June  
8 9th because I remember the discussion that he was  
9 in town in the morning for the theater, and I  
10 remember the discussion that his either cousin or  
11 relative was in that play.

12 Q. After the meeting did you travel to  
13 Washington, D.C., with Ms. Veselnitskaya?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And do you remember on what day that was?

16 A. I remember how we traveled. We took a  
17 train. But I don't remember on what day. It must  
18 be the next day or the day after.

19 Q. So either the 10th or 11th?

20 A. Or 11th, correct. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And you took a train.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did anyone else travel with the two of  
24 you?

25 A. I recall that Mr. Akhmetshin was also

1 traveling with us.

2 Q. Do you remember what you did I guess  
3 either on the 10th or 11th, on the day when you  
4 went to D.C.?

5 A. I remember that there were meetings at  
6 BakerHostetler, and I remember that one meeting  
7 with the publicist. There was another meeting  
8 with another publicist who I think did the  
9 screening. And dinner. And that's all that I  
10 remember.

11 Q. At those meetings was there any  
12 discussion of the meeting at Trump Tower?

13 A No.

14 BY MR. DAVIS:

15 Q. Did you have any indication from Ms.  
16 Veselnitskaya that you were to treat that meeting,  
17 the Trump Tower meeting, as secret?

18 A. No. But can I add that in my  
19 professional capacity as an interpreter, I am  
20 bound not to talk about my clients; otherwise, I  
21 wouldn't get any work. So for me, I prefer to  
22 keep my work away from my personal life, so I did  
23 not talk to anybody about that meeting or, for  
24 that matter --

25 MR. KRANTZ: And if I might add, you had an

1 NDA as well.

2 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yeah.

3 BY MS. BRENNAN:

4 Q. But I mean in the further -- in the  
5 meetings at BakerHostetler, so with other people  
6 who were working on the Prevezon case and  
7 Magnitsky work, was there any discussion with  
8 those people about the Trump Tower meeting?

9 A. Not that I am aware of, no.

10 Q. And did you attend a dinner that night  
11 with Ms. Veselnitskaya in Washington, D.C.?

12 A. Which night do you refer to?

13 Q. Well, I guess it would be either the 10th  
14 or 11th, so the day that you came down to D.C.

15 A. What happened typically is that she would  
16 have working meals, and she would have me and  
17 there was also another interpreter that she worked  
18 with. So to an extent that there was a meal, I  
19 probably was there with her because I would either  
20 translate messages or help her in some other ways.

21 Q. But you don't have any specific --

22 A. I don't have any specific recollection of  
23 the schedule or those days.

24 BY MR. DAVIS:

25 Q. What was the name of the other translator

1 she worked with?

2 A. She brought a fellow from Moscow, whose  
3 name is Murat Glashev, G-L-A-S-H-E-V.

4 BY MS. BRENNAN:

5 Q. Do you remember if Glenn Simpson attended  
6 any of the meetings at BakerHostetler or the PR  
7 firm?

8 A. He was not at the PR firm, but he was at  
9 at least one meeting at BakerHostetler that I  
10 remember. But that meeting occurred after I came  
11 back from New York on either the 16th or 17th of  
12 June.

13 Q. So the meeting that you just referenced  
14 before, the one that was either on the 10th or  
15 11th, was he there or --

16 A. He was there for dinner. That I  
17 definitely remember. He might have been there for  
18 another BakerHostetler meeting. I do not have a  
19 precise recollection. I have a precise  
20 recollection of Glenn Simpson in June 2016 on two  
21 occasions: the evening dinner, the large group  
22 dinner that I described, which happened either on  
23 12th or 13th.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And there was a separate meeting when I

1 come back after my New York assignment and worked  
2 with her several more days in Washington before  
3 she left.

4 BY MR. FOSTER:

5 Q. Do you recall any discussion of the Trump  
6 Tower meeting at either of those --

7 A No.

8 Q. On either of those occasions?

9 A. No. In my presence there was no  
10 discussion of the Trump Tower meeting with Mr.  
11 Simpson or with any of the people there in  
12 Washington at that time.

13 BY MS. BRENNAN:

14 Q. Do you remember any discussion between  
15 Ms. Veselnitskaya and Mr. Simpson at those  
16 meetings or dinners?

17 MR. KRANTZ: So to the extent they're  
18 privileged, you can't discuss them.

19 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Can I divulge general  
20 topic? That they were into the context of the  
21 Prevezon case.

22 BY MS. BRENNAN:

23 Q. And were you acting as Ms.  
24 Veselnitskaya's translator?

25 A. Interpreter, yes.

1 Q. Interpreter.

2 BY MR. FOSTER:

3 Q. And what privilege would there be between  
4 Ms. Veselnitskaya and Mr. Simpson?

5 MR. KRANTZ: If in the context of meetings  
6 at BakerHostetler discussing legal strategy in the  
7 Prevezon case, I have no idea what role Mr.  
8 Simpson plays in that, but it's a meeting at a law  
9 office discussing legal strategy, so --

10 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: And it was in the presence  
11 of her lawyers. I do not recall her meeting with  
12 Mr. Simpson one on one. It was always in the  
13 presence of her legal team, so that's why my  
14 counsel advised me that that would be privileged.

15 MR. KRANTZ: We'd have to get away from  
16 that. I have no way of knowing what Mr. Simpson's  
17 role was in that meeting.

18 BY MS. BRENNAN:

19 Q. Are you aware of lobbying efforts related  
20 to HRAGI during Ms. Veselnitskaya's June trip?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you tell us more about that?

23 MR. KRANTZ: I apologize. I didn't -- I  
24 lost my train of thought for a minute. What was  
25 the question?



1 MS. BRENNAN: Are you aware of lobbying  
2 efforts related to HRAGI during Ms.  
3 Veselnitskaya's June trip?

4 MR. KRANTZ: Thank you.

5 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Yes. So Ms. Veselnitskaya  
6 supported this film maker, Mr. Andrei Nekrasov,  
7 and helped promote his film and the screening of  
8 the film. And to that extent, she traveled to  
9 Brussels where the film was banned, and ultimately  
10 it is my understanding that HRAGIF secured the  
11 Freedom Museum in Washington to screen the movie.

12 BY MS. BRENNAN:

13 Q. Do you know which offices -- whether --  
14 do you know which offices or officials HRAGI and  
15 its associates lobbied?

16 A. I am aware and Mr. Akhmetshin told me  
17 that he met with Mr. Dana Rohrabacher, and there  
18 was another Congress person, but I was not  
19 involved in lobbying directly. My understanding  
20 was that it was Mr. Akhmetshin who was doing that  
21 primarily.

22 Q. Have you ever attended any lobbying  
23 meetings for HRAGI?

24 A. No. Other than that meeting where I  
25 acted as a facilitator, and I do not know if it

1 could be described a lobbying meeting. But when  
2 they met and wanted to ask for the support of the  
3 Satmar community, I have not attended any other  
4 meetings.

5 Q. Do you know who funds HRAGI?

6 A. I was told that there are four Russian  
7 private individuals and that one of them was Mr.  
8 Denis Katsyv. And at one point the director of  
9 HRAGIF mentioned their names, but I don't have a  
10 record of them. My understanding is that there  
11 are four private individuals who did that.

12 BY MR. FOSTER:

13 Q. You said you don't have a record of them.  
14 Do you have -- you mean you don't have a  
15 recollection?

16 A. I didn't put that down. It wasn't an  
17 email. He told it to me in a conversation that  
18 there were four people who did that.

19 Q. And you don't recall the other three  
20 names?

21 A. No. They were not anything familiar,  
22 necessarily known in the Russian context.

23 BY MR. DAVIS:

24 Q. And what was the relationship between  
25 HRAGI and the Prevezon litigation team?

1           A. I'm not sure I'm the right person to ask  
2 this question. I do not know all the details.  
3 HRAGIF was set up to lobby U.S. Congress to take  
4 on -- I understand you have a congressional  
5 bureau, investigations bureau, so what Mr. Katsyv  
6 and Ms. Veselnitskaya wanted to do is to present  
7 their findings and to lobby enough Members of  
8 Congress to launch an independent investigation  
9 into the circumstances of the death of Mr.  
10 Magnitsky. That also was the predicate crime, and  
11 I'm not a lawyer so I can't explain the  
12 intricacies, but from my interpreting and from  
13 reading about the case, I understand that it was  
14 alleged that a small portion of the money  
15 uncovered by Mr. Magnitsky allegedly ended up  
16 being invested in real estate in New York.

17           Q. And given that Mr. Akhmetshin seems to  
18 have been at some of these meetings with the  
19 BakerHostetler team, when you were being paid for  
20 your work as an interpreter for Ms. Veselnitskaya,  
21 how was it determined whether you were going to be  
22 paid by BakerHostetler or by HRAGIF?

23           A. I was paid by BakerHostetler from October  
24 'til about February, and then they said at the  
25 foundation -- and, actually, I think it was in

1 January that the case was stayed. So they -- and,  
2 again, this is my understanding. I don't have  
3 access to any and I have never seen any charter  
4 documents, but at some point HRAGIF was set up. I  
5 was offered a position there, and I was offered a  
6 retainer. And I started being paid by HRAGIF up  
7 until July 2016. And then they kind of folded  
8 HRAGIF completely, and they disappeared from my  
9 life and reappeared again in November when Natalia  
10 Veselnitskaya came to hire another representation.  
11 And they worked with them on and off until May 15  
12 -- beginning of May 2017.

13 Q. And, sorry, I think you did answer this  
14 question before, but for my own clarification, so  
15 your interpreting services at the June 9th  
16 meeting, you were paid by HRAGIF for that?

17 A. Correct.

18 MR. DAVIS: Okay.

19 BY MS. BRENNAN:

20 Q. I think you may have said that you went  
21 back to New York during this time, but did you  
22 attend the June 13th screening of "The Magnitsky  
23 Act" film?

24 A. No. At that time I was on stage at New  
25 York Public Library, at Brooklyn library, with Ms.

1 Alexievich, so I did not attend that screening.

2 Q. And, similarly, did you attend on June  
3 14th a congressional hearing with Ms.  
4 Veselnitskaya?

5 A. I did not.

6 Q. Did you attend a dinner with Ms.  
7 Veselnitskaya at the Capitol Hill Club on June  
8 14th?

9 A. No.

10 Q. When you came back to Washington, D.C.,  
11 can you go through again what the itinerary was  
12 for those days?

13 MR. KRANTZ: I'm sorry. I just lost the  
14 chronology. Which days are you referring to?

15 MS. BRENNAN: Well, I guess I'm not totally  
16 sure.

17 BY MS. BRENNAN:

18 Q. So you went back to New York, and then  
19 you've said that you came back to D.C. There was  
20 a dinner that you attended. What else were you  
21 doing those days with Ms. Veselnitskaya?

22 A. I think we are getting confused. The  
23 dinner was -- it was before I went --

24 Q. Oh.

25 A. So the dinner was either on Friday or

1 Saturday before I left for New York on Sunday  
2 night. And I must have come back on Tuesday.  
3 There were two or three days where she worked and  
4 met with Mr. Simpson at a time definitely at the  
5 offices of BakerHostetler, and there were some  
6 other BakerHostetler-related meetings.

7 Q. And what was the extent of your services?  
8 All interpreting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you said that you did not have  
11 any role in -- I think you said that you didn't  
12 know if Ms. Veselnitskaya had tried to connect  
13 with the Trump transition team after the election?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. So you did not have any role in those --

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Do you know whether she ever had a  
18 second meeting with Trump associates after the  
19 June meeting?

20 A. I do not.

21 Q. And you have said that you did not have  
22 any contact with Trump associates after the  
23 meeting; is that correct?

24 A. That is correct, yes.

25 Q. When did you first become aware of Glenn

1 Simpson's or Fusion GPS' research about Donald  
2 Trump and Russia?

3 A. I read it in the papers sometime.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. When it came out in spring, I guess,  
6 2017.

7 Q. Did you ever discuss with Mr. Simpson his  
8 communications with the press?

9 A. No, not that I recall. Well, define  
10 that, because -- and, again, to the extent of the  
11 Prevezon case, he might have done some press work,  
12 but I do not know --

13 MR. KRANTZ: I think you're talking about  
14 the Fusion GPS matter and --

15 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Which communications with  
16 the press? Can you be a little bit more specific?  
17 BY MS. BRENNAN:

18 Q. Well, both, I think. So whether his  
19 communications related to the Prevezon case and  
20 the Magnitsky Act and then also his work, his  
21 research related to potential connections between  
22 Donald Trump and Russia.

23 A. What I can say is that I have never heard  
24 Mr. Simpson in any context -- and I hope I'm not  
25 disclosing privileged -- mention the dossier --

1           MR. KRANTZ:  If you want to confer, we'll  
2 confer.

3           MR. SAMOCHORNOV:  -- or Mr. Steele or any  
4 election work at all.  So the work that, as I  
5 said, he was doing, he was doing in the connection  
6 to the Prevezon case, and I'm aware that he did do  
7 some publicity-type PR work.  What exactly, I  
8 can't tell you.  But I heard that mentioned.  I  
9 hope that's not privileged.  Sorry.  It's already  
10 too late.

11          MR. KRANTZ:  Since there's no context for  
12 the conversation, there's no way to determine if  
13 it's privileged or not.

14          MR. FOSTER:  Well, yeah, I mean, I don't see  
15 how it can be.  He's talking with the press.

16 BY MR. FOSTER:

17          Q.  So what is your basis for believing that,  
18 that part of his work was PR work?

19          A.  Because I remember Ms. Veselnitskaya and  
20 Mr. Katsyv interviewing several PR firms for the  
21 work on the Prevezon case, when it -- were it to  
22 be litigated in court.  I went to some of the  
23 meetings where the interviews were held, and I  
24 heard it mentioned that Mr. Simpson did do some PR  
25 work for Prevezon case.



1           MR. KRANTZ: Okay. To the extent that you  
2 learned that at a meeting with attorneys where the  
3 press is not present, that's privileged.

4           MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Okay.

5           MR. FOSTER: Well, I'm not sure that I agree  
6 with that, but...

7           MR. KRANTZ: Without further information as  
8 to how there would be a breach of the privilege,  
9 we have to assume it's privileged.

10 BY MR. DAVIS:

11           Q. The dinner you've mentioned in  
12 Washington, D.C., the larger one with Ms.  
13 Veselnitskaya and Mr. Simpson, do you recall where  
14 that dinner --

15           A. Vaguely. It is either a Peruvian or a  
16 Latin American restaurant. I believe there is one  
17 in Kalorama. And the reason I remember it is that  
18 Mr. Cymrot has done some work in Latin America,  
19 and I believe his wife is from Peru. So they were  
20 the ones who suggested the restaurant. But I  
21 don't remember what it was called.

22           Q. I think you described previously a few  
23 interactions with Mr. Ed Baumgartner.

24           A. Uh-huh.

25           Q. Can you refresh our memory? What was

1 your interaction with him?

2 A. I met him also in connection with the  
3 Prevezon case, and it was in the fall of 2015 when  
4 I met the full group. I do not know whether he  
5 worked for Mr. Simpson directly or for  
6 BakerHostetler, and it wasn't clear to me exactly  
7 what his role was. It was either public relations  
8 or research.

9 Q. Was he present at any of the meetings on  
10 or around June 9, 2016?

11 A. Not that I recall. I recall him being  
12 present and doing some work in the fall of 2015,  
13 but that he kind of dropped out, and I don't  
14 remember him -- in fact, I've forgotten when was  
15 the last time that I've seen him or heard of him.

16 Q. So he wasn't at the dinners that you were  
17 at with Mr. Simpson?

18 A. I don't remember. But it didn't stick  
19 out. I remember there was an active phase when he  
20 was coming in that fall several days in a row, and  
21 possibly maybe another meeting in -- later in  
22 January and February of 2016. But I don't  
23 remember him -- and definitely not in the second  
24 part of the Prevezon trial, he wasn't there. In  
25 June, maybe, but I don't have a precise answer for

1 you, unfortunately. Sorry.

2 MR. FOSTER: Thanks.

3 MS. BRENNAN: I think that's all.

4 BY MR. DAVIS:

5 Q. Are you aware of the Agalarovs having any  
6 interest in the Magnitsky Act?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And did you know who Mr. Kaveladze's  
9 employer was?

10 A. No. Not at that time when I met him.

11 Q. And I think you may have already gone  
12 over this, but to the extent you can restate it,  
13 who do you recall attending the dinner in  
14 Washington, D.C., with Ms. Veselnitskaya in June?

15 A. You refer to the big dinner?

16 Q. That's right.

17 A. So I mentioned Mr. Simpson and his wife  
18 -- yeah, his significant other. There was Mr.  
19 Cymrot and his wife. And I remember there being a  
20 large table, but I can't place any other people.

21 And can I make one clarification? You  
22 asked me if I'm aware of whether the Agalarovs  
23 were involved in the Magnitsky Act. I believe  
24 that at second meeting that Mr. Kaveladze was  
25 setting up with that lawyer whose name I'm

1 forgetting was somehow connected to Mr. Agalarov.  
2 But to what extent, I do not know whether he was  
3 involved financially. And, again, that would be  
4 privileged because it was in the context of the  
5 legal conversation.

6 MR. KRANTZ: Before talking about a  
7 conversation that you're concerned --

8 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Okay, sorry.

9 MR. KRANTZ: -- might be privileged, take a  
10 break and talk to me about it.

11 MR. SAMOCHORNOV: Okay. Yes, sir.

12 BY MR. DAVIS:

13 Q. So returning to the Washington, D.C.,  
14 dinner, was Mr. Akhmetshin at that dinner, to the  
15 best of your knowledge?

16 A. I do not -- I do not know. Don't  
17 remember.

18 Q. Do you recall if Ed Lieberman was at that  
19 dinner?

20 A. I think so. Yes.

21 BY MS. BRENNAN:

22 Q. Were you sitting with Ms. Veselnitskaya  
23 at that dinner?

24 A. I don't remember. I remember meeting  
25 with Mr. Donald Trump, Jr., because it was

1 something out of the ordinary and it was something  
2 new. This was just a regular business dinner, and  
3 forgive me, I just don't remember those details.  
4 But there were some -- you know, if Mr. Akhmetshin  
5 was there, then he speaks Russian, and, you know -  
6 - and on social occasions, I did interpret for  
7 her, so I could have been next to her, but I don't  
8 remember.

9 MR. KRANTZ: You don't need to explain why  
10 you don't remember.

11 MS. BRENNAN: Do you have anything else?

12 [No response.]

13 MS. BRENNAN: That's all we have, so we'll  
14 go off the record at 3:03 p.m.

15 [Whereupon the proceedings were adjourned at 3:03  
16 p.m.]

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ERRATA SHEET  
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
INTERVIEW OF: ANATOLI SAMOCHORNOV

PAGE LINE

14 9 CHANGE: from Universal to Interpreter  
Boutique

REASON: correction in name

15 3 CHANGE: a meeting to meetings

REASON: grammatical

15 17 CHANGE: public access to public trust

REASON: mistake

19 CHANGE: same, to public trust

REASON: Mistake

24 CHANGE: Random House in Pan America to  
Ranclow House and PCN America

REASON: mistake

28 10 CHANGE: Stake Mari to Sattmar

15 REASON: Sattu Mari to Sattmar

CHANGE: It is an established name

REASON: of the community, I believe

34 9 CHANGE: services was to services were

REASON: grammar

37 CHANGE: courthouses to courthouse

REASON: grammatical

Submitted by: (Signed)



Date:

2/1/2018

PRINT NAME:

Anatoli Samochornov



ERRATA SHEET  
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
INTERVIEW OF: ANATOLI SAMOCHORNOV

PAGE LINE

39 4 CHANGE: was to were

REASON: grammar

45 21 CHANGE: Mr. Trump to Mr. Manafort

50 REASON: (A probably misspoken)

50 6 CHANGE: jude to judgement

REASON: grammar

73 23 CHANGE: Pan America to PEN America

95 REASON: "it" never materialized

CHANGE: grammatical

110 3 REASON: Satmar?

CHANGE: correct spelling

112 8 REASON: it to they

CHANGE:

176 17 REASON: handed by

79 B CHANGE: paid by

REASON:

21 R CHANGE: as -> or

32 1 REASON: I've met him

Submitted by: (Signed)

Date:

Feb 1, 2018

PRINT NAME:

Anatoli Samochornov

ERRATA SHEET  
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
INTERVIEW OF: ANATOLI SAMOCHORNOV

PAGE LINE

40 2 CHANGE: Not through me?

REASON: \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGE: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON: \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGE: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON: \_\_\_\_\_

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REASON: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_